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Fugitive evaded police for 16 years

A BUILDER who succeeded in evading police who had a warrant for his arrest for 16 years, has been jailed for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

For every one of those years said barrister Nicholas Gedge, 60-year-old Peter Nevell, had been looking over his shoulder.

Nevell, of Rowan Drive, Porthcawl, had admitted possessing amphetamine in April 1994 and dangerous driving and assaulting the police in January 1995.

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CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

At the latest hearing, he admitted a charge of absconding while on bail.

Nevell had pleaded not guilty to stealing an £800 Giro cheque and the prosecution offered no evidence.

Recorder Huw Rees said: "He was at large for a remarkably long time. It is a highly unusual case."

He told Nevell: "You should have been sentenced in 1995, but you made a conscious decision to abscond and flagrantly breached your

bail. You even went abroad and obtained employment. You returned about six years ago, but you continued to avoid justice.

"You were always wily enough to avoid detection. A deterrent sentence is called for."

Prosecutor Ruth Smith said that in April 1994, two police officers were on duty in Mary Street, Porthcawl, and saw Nevell parking his car. They approached and he began shouting obscenities at them.

When they said they wanted to search him, he became agitated. The officers found 36.5 grammes of amphetamine.

Nevell said it was for personal use and he had been using it for years."

On January 13, 1995, while on bail, police officers saw Nevell driving at high speed through the centre of Bridgend.

He was seen to pull across the paths of oncoming vehicles.

Nevell accelerated away from the officers, turned his vehicle around, and gave the police a 'V' sign.

At 80 miles per hour, he headed for Newton, the vehicle zig-zagging across the road and crossing double white lines.

Nevell reached the M4 and the pursuing police were unable to close with him.

A police patrol car joined in the chase as Nevell hit 90 miles per hour, exiting at the Pencoed intersection where he suddenly lost control.

Ms Smith said that he left the car and kicked out at one of the officers, and burned one on the wrist with a cigarette lighter.

A civilian in the vicinity helped to subdue Nevell.

"He was in a raging temper, spitting and shouting," said Ms Smith.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Communities pay their tributes to the fallen

THOUSANDS of people in towns, villages and hamlets across Bridgend County Borough attended Cenotaphs on Remembrance Sunday to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom.

Among those attending were members of the Armed Forces, the Royal British Legion, Merchant Seamen, local dignitaries and youth organisations.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of young people paying their respects – possibly because the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq have reinforced the sacrifices made by Servicemen and the families.

In the 90th anniversary year of the

Woman's death: **HUSBAND CHARGED**

POLICE investigating the death of Colette Davies, from the Bridgend area, on February 27, 2004 – while on holiday with her husband in India, have arrested him on suspicion of her murder.

John Clifton Davies (50) appeared at Cardiff magistrates court on Monday, November 14, charged with murder and two counts of fraud.

As The GEM was going to press yesterday (Wednesday) he was due to appear at the city's crown court.

Royal British Legion, 'Remembrance' remains as important as it ever was to local communities – as was clearly demonstrated at the weekend.



BRIDGENG REMEMBERS
Picture by Glyn Evans;
(See also pages 23 and 30)

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Leader thanks The GEM as borough Follows the Flame to 2012 Olympics

MANY thanks for your recent publicity on the Following the Flame exhibition and the Olympic

Torch Relay that will pass through Bridgend on 26 May 2012.

Encouraging residents to keep active and lead healthier lifestyles is something

we are committed to at BCBC.

Coming together as a community and celebrating Wales' sporting heritage is another way of highlighting the benefits of sport and raising the aspirations of young future athletes.

The Following the Flame exhibition is a fantastic opportunity for local people to experience the journey of the Olympic Games, from its origins in ancient Greece, through to Welsh hopefuls aiming to compete in London 2012 next year.

Visitors will also get to experience an array of photographs, history, art and sporting memorabilia that celebrates the successes of

past Welsh Olympians and Paralympians.

School sessions are proving to be extremely popular and are now fully booked, but I can remind readers that the exhibition at Bridgend Recreation Centre is open to the public until January 11, 2012, on Tuesday – Thursdays at 4 - 8pm and on Sundays from 11am - 4pm.

I am also looking forward to an official visit on Friday, November 18 by Paul Deighton, CEO of the London Olympic Games Organising Committee, who is coming to view the exhibition, as well as some of our other services.

It will be great to show him how

Bridgend county borough is embracing London 2012.

The forthcoming Olympics is a positive and exciting event on Britain's calendar that I hope the local community will get involved with.

I was so pleased to celebrate the news about the Torch Relay Route in May with schoolchildren from Bryncethin Primary School and it was a pleasure to see their excitement at the prospect of seeing this iconic symbol passing through our borough.

I will certainly be joining them to cheer on the torchbearers.
COUN MEL NOTT
(Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council)

Broadway bounces back

AFTER last year's sell-out performance, Saturday, November 26 sees another in the popular series of 'Broadway' shows at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

The Broadway Babes, the youngest performers, who seemed to steal the show last year, are also taking part.

As the title of the show suggests, a number of well known items of Christmas music will also make an early festive appearance.

The organisers of Broadway's Back were delighted with how last year's show was received, and look forward to presenting another exciting evening of live music.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm are available on 01656 788148, or from the Pavilion box office on 01656 815995 and cost £9 (£8 cons).

Michael Ploughman (musical director)

TAX HELP

TAX Help for Older People is holding an advice surgery at the Library, Pencoed on Tuesday, November 22.

To book an appointment, telephone 0845 6013321.

AM and union urges festive shoppers to 'Keep their cool'



ABOVE: Janice Gregory (right) joins Usdaw members Pam Stanton (left) and Flo Boardman (centre) to get the message across.

JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore, joined members of the shopworkers' union Usdaw at a campaign event in the Welsh Assembly, to launch this year's Respect for Shopworkers Week.

During the campaign week, the shopworkers union urged shoppers to remember to 'Keep their cool at Christmas'.

Usdaw's latest survey reveals that in the last 12 months, 6 per cent of shopworkers had been subjected to violent attack, 37 per cent had been threatened and a massive 70 per cent had suffered verbal abuse.

Nearly half of all incidents of abuse resulted from requests for proof of age or refusing a sale of an age-restricted product.

John Hannett, Usdaw General Secretary, said: "Every minute of every day a shopworker is assaulted, threatened or abused. While our Freedom From Fear campaign helps

to raise awareness of the problem and reduce the number of incidents, the level of violence and abuse faced by shopworkers remains shocking and totally unacceptable.

"Our campaign highlights the problems shopworkers face, particularly during the festive season when incidents of verbal abuse can increase dramatically. In the run-up to Christmas, customers are stressed, stores are busy and sometimes things can boil over. That's why we are asking shoppers to show respect for shopworkers and to 'Keep your cool at Christmas'."

Ms Gregory AM commented: "Retailers and their staff provide a tremendous service, especially in the run-up to Christmas, when demand is very high and stores are busy. Shopworkers deserve respect and they have my full support."

"I hope that everyone in our area gets their Christmas shopping done with the minimum of stress."

History talk on Margam castle

SKER WI NEWS

AT a recent meeting of Sker WI in St David's Church Hall, Nottage, the president welcomed 48 members and two visitors.

Final arrangements were made regarding the forthcoming Christmas fair, to be held on November 18, at Trinity Church Hall, Porthcawl, from 10am.

Ros Hopper reported on the autumn council meeting held in Port Talbot and the speaker for the evening, Mr Alan Adams from Swansea College, gave an interesting talk on Margam Castle.

The castle was built between 1830 and 1840 and was originally owned by the Mansel Talbot family.

During World War 2, it was used by British and American forces and fell into disrepair after the war ended.

It was purchased by the local authority in the 1970s and Mr Adams helped to restore the stained glass window in the castle which took three years – part time - to complete.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday December 8, and is 'Party Time', which will include entertainment by the drama group. AV

THIS WEEK'S Quiz League testers...

ON October 3, first division matches went very much to form.: Llangwydd Arms beat good Mackworth Arms team by 55 points to 43 and Six Bells were no match for Tyrrisha Nomads who won 52-29.

Oldcastle 'A' had a successful trip to Cabo Roche, winning by 45 points to 36 and Tyrrisha Royals had a 43-37 home win against Laleston Inn 'A'.

In Division 2, Tondu Railway Club continued on their merry way at the Greenmeadow with a 52-43 victory and Laleston Inn 'B' kept Pyle RFC on the bottom by beating them 43-27. The remaining two matches were low-scoring affairs. Oldcastle 'B' beat the Pheasant Gamekeepers 35-30 and Pheasant Poachers edged out Coychurch Wanderers by 32 points to 31.

Here are your four-for-thought :-

- 1) What is an encephalogram?
- 2) Which solo singer's first number one record was 'When I need you'?
- 3) Which sport is associated with Bisley?
- 4) Norma Jean Mortenson was which actress's real name?

A.RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS
1) An X-ray photo of the brain.
2) Leo Sayer.
3) Ans. Rita Skeeter.
4) Marlene Monroe.

Flying Start for families expands in Cornelly and Pyle



ABOVE: A fun day!

and be curious about their world.

"This expansion into the Cornelly and Pyle areas will be achieved from January 2012. However, the Welsh Government has

announced the 'doubling' of Flying Start

across Wales from April 2012, which will enable the further expansion of the programme across additional areas in Bridgend."

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

ONCE again, we have Christmas lights being erected all over Porthcawl. May I suggest that in future years, the cost of all these poor displays be put together and a tidy display placed in one area – eg the police station or bandstand areas where local school children and local charities can put on displays of carol singing and Christmas enjoyment?

John Clatworthy,
Porthcawl.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
17 Thur	09.56	8.6	23.26	8.1
18 Fri	10.51	8.3	23.28	7.9
19 Sat	12.00	8.2		
20 Sun	00.44	7.9	13.15	8.3
21 Mon	01.59	8.2	14.27	8.7
22 Tues	03.05	8.9	15.30	9.2
23 Wed	04.05	9.35	16.26	9.7
24 Thur	04.55	9.8	17.20	10.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Royal British Legion marks Armistice Day

Pictures by KEITH E MORGAN



A good turn-out in Porthcawl by these youngsters from Newton Primary School.



ABOVE The branch mascot was also there, proudly sporting his own Poppy.

THE Armistice Day ceremony was observed in Porthcawl with a two-minute silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, to commemorate the signing of the Armistice in 1918 which ended the Great War, and to remember those who died in that War and in wars and conflicts ever since.

There was a very good turnout again this year for the Armistice Day ceremony in John Street, with crowds lining the street either side of The Bandstand. There was also a strong representation by children from Newton Primary School, New Road, Porthcawl.

The chairman of the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion, Ruth Birch, introduced the Armistice Day ceremony, while the chaplain of the Porthcawl branch, Rev Canon Philip Masson, conducted the Service of Remembrance. The president of the Porthcawl branch, Lt Col Stephen Rock, TD, recited the Exhortation; and Legionnaire John David MBE, gave the Kohima Epitaph. The Last Post and Reveille were played on the trumpet by Robert Young.

KEITH E MORGAN

Talk on Nepal and a look ahead

LALESTON WI NEWS

LALESTON WI meeting on November 3 opened with the guest speaker's talk about another visit to Nepal.

Mr Keith Allen was making a welcome return to Laleston and on this occasion he spoke about rural Nepal and the school he is connected with.

His journey started in Katmandu with a six-hour bus journey and a three-hour walk to the village.

The existing schools have been repaired or

rebuilt and they are well-used. From his photos, the children looked fine in their uniforms.

He was thanked by Margaret Aylen.

Diaries and calendars were distributed and the picture/postcards on the new calendar are of Glamorgan bridges.

Two Christmas outings will be to Swansea for the GFWI carol concert and Laleston's Christmas dinner on December 7. So with the monthly meeting on December 1, a busy time is ahead.

BRIDGEND FOODBANK: November newsletter

WE must begin by 10am-2pm Friday, 11am-2pm.

Cornelly Centre: Cornelly Community Church, 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cornelly, CF33 4LW. Open Thursdays, 1pm-3pm.

Bettws Centre: Saint David's Church, Bettws Road, Bettws, CF32 8UE. Open Wednesdays, 9am-11am. Porthcawl Centre: Griffin Park Community Centre, Griffin Park, Porthcawl. Open Friday 10am-12pm.

Pontycymmer Centre: Tabernacle Chapel, Meadow St., Pontycymmer, CF32 8HG. Open Friday, 11am-2pm.

We're currently looking into opening another centre in Maesteg, so that we can better serve the Llynfi Valley.

BRIDGEND FOODBANK

We fed 175 adults and 55 children in October, but we expect these numbers to rise significantly again over the winter.

There are just a couple of gaps in the warehouse. We're hoping some kindly souls might fill them with: 100g Instant Coffee, UHT Milk, Tinned puddings, Biscuits.

Donations can be made in our big green box at the back of Sainsbury's checkouts, or at any of the Foodbanks during opening hours. These are: Bridgend Centre: 79A Nolton St, Bridgend, CF31 3AA. Open Mondays, Tuesdays



ABOVE: The scene at the Armistice Day ceremony at The Bandstand, John Street, Porthcawl, where a two-minute silence was observed to commemorate the signing of the Armistice in 1918, which ended the Great War and to remember those who died in that war and other conflicts.



ABOVE: Legionnaire John Berry being 'quizzed' on the Armistice Day ceremony by children from Newton Primary School, New Road, Porthcawl.

READER'S LETTER

Tariff cuts blow to the local families fighting fuel poverty

THE decision to hasten cuts in tariffs by December 12, for domestic solar installations is a sickening blow to local low-income families fighting fuel poverty.

It also undermines community groups working in areas of older housing stock, where houses have poor levels of energy efficiency, i.e. much of Wales.

The GCEL (Green Community Energy Ltd) consortium of charities and social enterprises, based in south Wales, works to link the carbon economy with fuel poverty, by using the 'Feed in Tariff'.

The urgency of this work has been regularly underlined by government statements in Wales and the UK. The Coalition pledged to "encourage community owned energy where local people benefit from the power produced".

But the bombshell that solar licences on domestic properties must be signed by December 12 this year undermines all GCEL's community development work.

Not only does this contradict the govern-

ment line on why we need to cut carbon, it hits working families, the unemployed, and the elderly who might have benefited from tariffs paid for solar installations.

Ordinary people could have become energy providers. Instead they must remain passive consumers at the mercy of the market.

What should have occurred is an extension of the 'Feed-In Tariff' scheme payable to community-based projects supporting those on low income. Instead, there is an effective 50 per cent cut in the fledgling home solar industry and an abandonment of 'The Big Society' ideology – communities taking responsibility for themselves.

This is shocking government doublespeak, at a time when many of us were convinced we were working towards a fairer, greener society. I urge everyone to demand that the December 12 deadline is scrapped, so that community groups, such as GCEL, are not left high and dry.

Margaret Minchinick, Director, Sustainable Wales and Dawn Davies CEO, Creation Development Trust

Appeal after motorcyclist dies following a road crash

POLICE

are appealing for witnesses, following a fatal collision at the junction of Quarella Road with Tremgarth, Wildmill, at about 5pm on Sunday, November 13.

It involved two vehicles, a silver Peugeot 206 car and a blue Yamaha DT 125cc motorcycle.

The motorcycle was being ridden by a 19-year-old local man, Adam Lee, who sustained serious injuries.

He was conveyed to the Princess of Wales Hospital, but died from his injuries.

The Peugeot car was being driven along Cemetery Road into Tremgarth towards the junction with Quarella Road. The motorcycle was being ridden south along Quarella Road approaching the same junction.

Anyone with information should contact the Roads Policing Unit on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police have arrested a 68-year-old man in connection with the incident, who is currently on police bail pending further enquiries.

TRIBUTE
The family of Adam

Lee have issued a tribute. Adam's parents, Melanie and Meirion, said: "Our much loved son and brother, Adam, has been taken away from us. He will be hugely missed and his passing has left a huge void in our lives."

"Adam had a great deal of respect for his family and friends. In particular, he had a very close relationship with his brother, Daniel who is missing a loving brother."

"Adam was a very caring person and would do anything to help anyone. He was very well known in the neighbourhood. He was a shy and quiet young man and the family is heartbroken. We will all cherish the many great times Adam gave us. Adam enjoyed motorcycles and motorsport and especially playing on his Playstation."

"We would like to thank our friends and family, as well as the staff at the Princess of Wales Hospital, for their support at this difficult time."

Adam's nan, Caron, added that she will miss her loving grandson enormously.

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Heritage work at Ogmore Valley wins thumbs-up from regional AM



PICTURED: Byron Davies AM with members of the Ogmore Valley community council

WORK being done to promote heritage and tourism in the Ogmore Valley has won approval from a regional AM.

Byron Davies, Welsh Conservative AM for South Wales West, visited Ogmore Vale and Nantymoel, where he met members of the Ogmore Valley Community Council which has been promoting its Time Travel project.

The council has worked in conjunction with Bridgend County Borough Council and the Ogmore Valley Historical and Heritage Society to restore two elements of the valley's history – the platform at the site of the old railway station in Ogmore Vale and the clock at Pricetown Square.

Mr Davies met up with councillors in Ogmore Vale when the history of the project was outlined by chairman Margaret Jenkins.

He was shown the old station site, where the council has had the platform reinstated with new paving slabs and slate, which is being carved by a local artist with symbols signifying various aspects of valley life.

Trees have also been planted and seats installed to make the platform a focal point for the many cyclists and walkers who use the community route which passes along the track of the old railway line.

The party then went to Pricetown, where progress on restoring the clock was inspected. The clock has been put back into working order and the steps around it are being removed to reduce anti-social behaviour problems for nearby residents as it had become a gathering place for local youngsters.

A new set of railings is being placed around the clock which stands on a brick column.

"I was very impressed with the work being done by the community council," said Mr Davies. "The former mining valleys are areas of great natural beauty and they also have an interesting industrial and social history which can be promoted to bring visitors in."

"Ogmore council has been the catalyst here with this project and I was particularly pleased with their plans to put up information posts which can be accessed with iPhones."

Council clerk Louvain Lake explained that the historical society members have been interviewing older residents for their memories of life in the past – about the pits, the railway line and other aspects of valley history. These recordings will be edited and will be available to visitors.

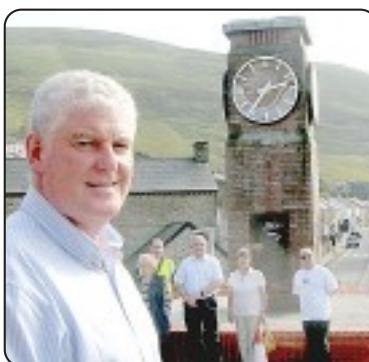
She said: "It's all about encouraging people, especially the youngsters, to learn about the history of their own community and also to give visitors somewhere to go and hear about these things."

"We hope that people will now stop at the old station rather than just cycle or walk past. It's about restoring pride in the valley as well."

The project has cost £80,000 so far, with grants from various bodies and some of the community council's own money as well.

The railway station closed in the 1950s when passenger trains ceased but coal trains travelled up the valley until the closure of the last pit – Wyndham Western – in 1985.

The clock was put up by the Ogmore Valley Medical Aid Society when it disbanded following the establishment of the NHS in 1948. Some of the



PICTURED:
AM Byron Davies stands in front of the clock at Pricetown Square, which is being restored by Ogmore Valley community council

money in its funds was used to provide a clock for the community.

Byron Davies added: "I was also told about the Gwalia Stores, which were located by the railway station and which have been moved to St Fagan's.

"They are now one of the most popular attractions at the museum, and I will look at the former general stores with a fresh eye during my next visit having seen where they were originally located."

Air cadets to hold an open day at Maesteg

MAESTEG Air Cadets are holding an open day at their headquarters in Upper Street, Maesteg this Saturday, November 19, from 10am-1pm.

During the day, the cadets will showcase their activities for parents, friends, potential recruits and anybody interested in learning more about the cadets' activities.

The cadets of 631 (Maesteg) Squadron Air Training Corps will have a number of demonstrations – including foot drill and first aid, as well as field cooking, when visitors will be able to taste the food cooked by cadets when they take part in the expedition section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Visitors will also be able to try their hand on the squadron's flight simulator which will enable them to experience flying the Grob Tutor at St Athan; Maesteg cadets regularly get the chance to fly the real thing at St Athan

Read your GEM online – visit www.bridgend-today.co.uk and register for free

Townswomen's Guild hand over cheque for the Air Ambulance

CHAIRMAN Dee Richardson thanked all who had attended on such a wet day and presented flowers to one of the members, who was celebrating a special birthday.

Our monthly report from the twin guild at Mansfield was, as usual, very amusing, and their diaries seem to be as full as our own...

We also had a nice report from Mr Chris Williams, thanking us for the sponsorship regarding his half marathon.

The chairman and her son, Simon Richardson, were going to Swansea to present a cheque for £110 to the Air Ambulance in recogni-

tion for their help when Simon was involved in a serious road accident.

Guest speaker Mr Brian Haberfield was then introduced and gave an insight into the beauties of Wales, which really was spellbinding.

Our chairman was laying a wreath on our behalf at the Remembrance service.

The next date in our diary will be the Christmas fayre at the Fairways Hotel on November 18, at 10.30am.

There will be stalls and a raffle and, we hope, a fine day.

Our next monthly meeting will be in All St Church hall, which will be our Christmas party, and we will be entertained by Sounds Familiar.

FREDA RODGER

BRACKLA/BRIDGEND WI

Stepping down

DURING the October meeting of the Brackla/Bridgend WI AGM, the old committee stood down, together with Bronwyn Allen, who has been president jointly for a year and wholly for another year.

Her energy, commitment and hard work will be missed by all her friends.

The new president is Pauline Long, who is wished every success

and the support of all the members.

The new secretary is Theresa Button and the treasurer is Kay Osmond.

Some members attended and enjoyed a successful group meeting on November 3 at Pencoed.

The branch looked forward to the next group meeting on December 7, when there will be the link carol service at St David's Church in Pencoed.

TB

Caerau death: police appeal

POLICE investigating the sudden death of a 55-year-old woman in Caerau, are trying to trace anyone who saw her prior to her death.

Diane Sparey (nee Mabley) was found dead in the rear garden of her home in Rathbone Terrace, at around 11am on Saturday, November 12.

Her death is not being treated as suspicious and is being investigated on behalf of HM Coroner.

Acting Detective Inspector Gareth Morgan of Bridgend CID said: "Mrs Sparey was a well known character in the Caerau area.

"Anyone who saw her between 9am on Friday, November 11 and 11am on Saturday, November 12, should contact Bridgend CID.

"Mrs Sparey would have been wearing a yellow polo shirt and navy blue shell suit bottoms, with white trainers."

Anyone with information should contact Bridgend CID via 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

'REMEMBER BOROUGH'S CHILDREN IN NEED' – council urges

AS local residents join the rest of the country in raising money for this year's BBC Children in Need Appeal, Bridgend County Borough Council asks them to also remember the area's own children in need.

from their family and friends.

The more people who are approved as foster carers, the more likely it is that a good match can be found for the child in terms of location, culture, lifestyle, language and interests, reducing instability and disruption.

Coun Alana Davies, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "In Bridgend, we have many looked-after children in need of a foster carer who is able to offer them a safe, caring and supportive home.

"So many children are unable to remain with their birth family for many reasons, and fostering is one of the best ways of giving them a new or better life, whether that is short-term support or as long-term care."

There are many misconceptions that foster carers have to be married, own their own home or be a certain age.

However, there is no 'ideal' type and the council needs carers from a variety of different backgrounds and life experiences to meet the needs of the children.

For more information about fostering in Bridgend, call the team on 01656 642349 (Monday to Friday) or email: fostering@bridgend.gov.uk.

Man evades police for 16 years!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He was said to have previous convictions for two armed robberies, for which he was jailed for seven and nine years respectively for burglary and possessing drugs.

Mr Gedge said: "Nevell was in the '90s at the tail-end of his criminal career. He has totally turned around his life, after spending a considerable period in prison."

"He describes his behaviour as that of an idiot. He cannot explain his dangerous driving and it is more through luck than judgement there were no collisions or injuries."

He said the possession of the amphetamines was a symptom of the life he was then leading.

He added: "Through his own efforts, he has rebuilt his life, and is well-known and well-liked. His criminal attitudes are in the past, and behind him."

Nevell was also disqualified from driving for one year.



Pencoed stood still to honour those who sacrificed their lives in wars. (See page 10 for more pictures).

KENFIG HILL PAYS TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

The Remembrance Service was carried out in St. Theodore's Church, Kenfig Hill, and at the War Memorial, Top Cross, Kenfig Hill.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Jonathan Durley, Priest in Charge, Parish of Kenfig Hill, and the Rev. Len Graham, Pastor of Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill.

PICTURES by
KEITH E MORGAN



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PORTHCawl BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Following his address, the president of the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion, Lt Col Stephen Rock, TD, receiving an applause from the chairman, Ruth Birch; John Berry, temporary secretary; Ray Street, Standard Bearer and secretary, and the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun. Barbara Stubbs.



Legionnaire Ray Street performing his first duty as the official Standard Bearer of the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion at the recent Annual Poppy Appeal Concert held in All Saints Church, Porthcawl.

Words and Images by
KEITH E MORGAN

IN her second year in office as chairman, Ruth Birch gave her address – in which commented on yet another successful year for the Porthcawl branch of the Royal British Legion.

She complimented and thanked everyone for their part in helping to achieve the success of the 2010-2011 Poppy Appeal, which had raised £14,142.56 – a record for the town.

Ruth invited the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs, and Wendy David, Poppy Appeal organiser, to come forward and make an award of a certificate and badge to Legionnaire Neville Evans who had been selling Poppies in John Street, Porthcawl, for 27 years.

The president of the Porthcawl branch, Lt Col Stephen Rock, TD, who was completing his first year in the post, inaugurated Legionnaire Ray Street as the branch's official Standard Bearer.

Ray was also elected as branch secretary.

The president thanked Legionnaire John Berry for 'stepping-into-the-breach' and acting as temporary secretary over the last 18 months until a permanent secretary could be appointed.



*ABOVE and BELOW:
Legionnaire and Poppy Seller Neville Evans at his post in John Street to-day, and in the late 1990s – outside what had once been the premises of Dunn & Co., Gents' Outfitters.*

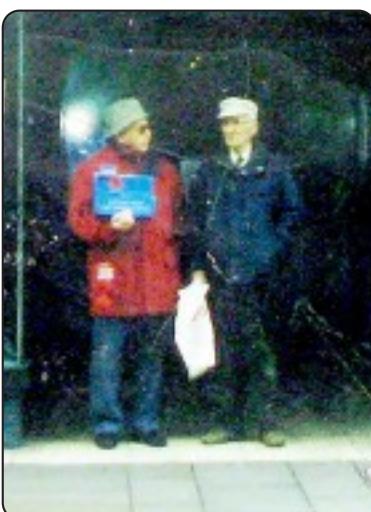


Photo from L-R: Mr Bernard Sage (branch member), Mr Viv Worrall (branch member), Rev David Mortimore (Branch Padre), Janice Gregory AM, Mr Windsor Williams (branch chairman), Mr David Andrews (chair, community council), Mr Peter Cole (branch president), Mr 'Dixie' Dean (branch secretary), Mrs Teresa Jenkins (community councillor).

Ogmore AM unveils plaque to the Fallen



Legionnaire Neville Evans, receiving a certificate and badge for 27 years' service as a Poppy seller, from the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Barbara Stubbs, and Wendy David, Poppy Appeal organiser.



OGMORE'S Labour AM, Janice Gregory, has unveiled a memorial plaque with the names and locations of the 24 war graves at Pontycymmer cemetery.

Designed by Mr 'Dixie' Dean and amended and produced by Mr Peter Cole and Bridgend Plastics it was erected by Stacey Alymore and Martin Llewellyn, at the

request of the Garw Valley branch of the Royal British Legion, at the entrance to the site on Alexandra Road, Pontycymmer.

The AM said: "It is an immense honour to unveil this plaque, so that there will be an easy way to identify the War graves. It is a very fitting tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our county and are buried at this cemetery."

Mr Dean, branch secretary of the Garw Valley branch of the

Royal British Legion, added: "Every year after the Remembrance Day Service we place poppy crosses on all the individual war graves – but some of them have become hard to identify."

"It was decided that a plaque with all the names and locations of the war graves on would be a mark of respect to these brave servicemen buried here," he explained.

Traffic-free route through Llynfi Valley is opened



President of the Porthcawl branch of the British Legion, Lt Col Stephen Rock, TD, inaugurating Legionnaire Ray Street as the official Standard Bearer for the branch.

A NEW three-mile walking and cycling route through the Llynfi Valley was opened last week by the Sustrans charity and Bridgend County Borough Council.

Transport Minister Carl Sargeant, AM, officially opened the first phase of the traffic-free Llynfi Valley Community route between Maesteg and Caerau.

It will provide a link for school pupils to make the school journey more safely on foot or bike, and give better walking and cycling access to Maesteg.

Mr Sargeant said: "This new route is an excellent example of how partnership working between Sustrans, Bridgend County Borough Council and Welsh Government can contribute to developing safe walking and cycling routes in our communities."

"We are fully committed to

enhancing and advancing the development of walking and cycling routes across Wales and provide people with realistic and enjoyable alternatives to the car."

"This new cycle route reflects our commitment and provides local residents with a safe route to partake in healthy exercise to help improve their health, enjoy the natural environment and promote a greener way of life."

Lee Waters, Sustrans Cymru Director, said: "The new route gives people more choice about how they make their everyday journeys."

"It's an entirely traffic-free route, making it a safer and more enjoyable walking and cycling experience, which will be especially beneficial to school pupils."

Sustrans has been working with Caerau Primary pupils since

the start of the school year to enable them to be more active by making their daily school journey by bike.

A series of stone artworks, commissioned by Bridgend County Borough Council, in partnership with Sustrans and Literature Wales, have also been unveiled along the route.

The stones – local Ewenny Limestone – have been carved by artist Adam Williamson with the poems of local children.

Bridgend CBC Deputy Leader David Sage said: "As well as providing a direct link to Maesteg Comprehensive School, the Llynfi Valley Community Route is going to benefit local people by offering a convenient, safe and enjoyable way of gaining access to education and employment opportunities."

Read your GEM online - visit www.bridgend-today.co.uk and register for free

Brackla Rainbows bring hope for needy in Africa



PICTURED: The 1st Brackla Rainbows with their achievement certificates after their sponsored run.

THE 1st Brackla Rainbows recently ran their socks off – to raise money for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) East Africa Crisis Appeal.

Nine Rainbows (the youngest members of Girlguiding UK) ran a total of 1438 lengths of their meeting hall on November 8 to help raise funds for those going

hungry in Africa. That works out at over 10 miles between them in 25 minutes! An amazing total, considering they are only aged 6 and 7.

Barny, Unit Leader, said that sponsor money is rolling in and hopes that the end total will be as impressive as the girls' efforts. "The Rainbows were little superstars – they were all really determined and made all the leaders very proud. I'd like to say a huge well done to Carys, Catherine,

Lauren, Lilly, Maddy, Madeleine, Miranda, Nia and Olivia."

The DEC East Africa Appeal is helping more than 13 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and the newly-formed Republic of South Sudan, who have been left in need of food, water and emergency healthcare because of one of the worst droughts in 60 years.

For more information, or to donate, go to www.dec.org.uk or telephone 0370 60 60 900.

LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE HEAR THE SOUND OF SUPPORT IN BRIDGEND

YOUNG people recently enjoyed a feast of live rock music with Sound? 2011 at Bridgend Recreation Centre featuring headliners Exit International and many more local bands in celebration of World Mental Health Day.

For 14-25 year olds and organised by PROMHS (consisting of local organisations working in Bridgend) and Siaradwn Ni – Let's Talk (five-year Big Lottery project), the night successfully aimed to promote positive mental health wellbeing amongst young people through the innovative medium of rock music, breaking down the barriers to accessing support, recovery, response and recovery.

Headliners Exit International from Cardiff and Bridgend-based bands Colours of One, Where is Billy, Four Words Later and Station 13 rocked the night away with unforgettable indie rock, unique instrumentation and pounding beats.

Throughout the concert, there were projec-



Above: Station 13 from Maesteg.

tions of slogans and mock-up boards to write what the audience thought of mental health which also included help numbers for various organisations dedicated to young people.

During band changes, short films were shown made by 17-year-old Bridgend College student, Sophie Williams, highlighting young people's successes in overcoming personal issues.

Sophie said: "The films started in silhouette of a young person telling their own story, gradually panning out to a full frontal shot as the person related how out

of personal struggle there can be a positive ending. "Young people facing troubled times will listen to other young people who have faced similar experiences. The message throughout the films was that you are not alone and there is lots of help out there.

"There is always someone you can talk to and you are never alone. At the end of the films were information contact numbers."

Members of the audience included Lucy Domacheski who said: "The bands were awesome and there was a

JANE SAVILE

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OPENCAST SITE: AM presses Council

REGIONAL AM
Byron Davies has again written to both Bridgend County Borough Council and Neath Port Talbot Council to ask what action they have taken to deal with problems at the old opencast site in Kenfig Hill.

Mr Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said he was told that a meeting was being convened on site between the two councils to look at safety matters relating to the former Celtic Energy

opencast site known initially as Park Slip and later as Margam.

He said: "BCBC told me in a letter sent last July that they were attempting to meet their counterparts in NPT. I have now written back to ask if that meeting has taken place. If so, what is the outcome and if not, why not?

"It surely does not take four months to organise a site meeting and I would hope that things are already moving forward. I know that Pyle community councillors have taken this up because of a lack of security on the site.

"There is a very deep void there which is filling with water and which presents a substantial danger especially to children.

"As a former police officer, I am only too aware of the risks we have here on the doorstep of communities in Cefn Cribwr, Kenfig Hill and Pyle.

"The time for action is now and I will be pressing for the Health and Safety Executive and the Coal Authority to get involved as well and help sort out this problem."

Free event for would-be home care workers

Ever considered becoming a home care worker? Why not come to Bridgend County Borough Council's FREE drop-in session on Wednesday 23 November. It's a chance to find out more about the role of a home care worker and view current vacancies at BCBC.

BCBC currently has vacancies in its long-term service for people needing ongoing support, its specialist service for people with dementia and BridgeStart which is short-term enabling and assessment service.

Home care staff, managers and HR representatives will be at the drop-in event to provide information, answer queries and offer assistance to anyone interested in applying for a current vacancy. There will also be information about the free training, learning and professional development opportunities offered by BCBC to its home care workers.

This is a great opportunity for anyone who is looking for a change in direction or for someone who used to work in this important sector and is looking to return.

Men and women of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to come along. The most important qualification you need is an interest in caring for people who have reached a time in their life when they need extra support.

The free drop-in event takes place on Wednesday 23 November from 4pm – 6pm in Civic Offices, Bridgend. Booking is not necessary and anyone wishing to attend can call in at any time between 4pm – 6pm.

For more information and a job pack visit www.bridgend.gov.uk or call 01656 643205.

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FREE DROP-IN 'A GREAT OPPORTUNITY'

Council looks to recruit more home care workers

A FREE drop-in session is being held aimed at anyone interested in becoming a home care worker on Wednesday, November 23.

Bridgend borough Council employs over 300 home care workers who provide personal and practical support to around 800 older or disabled people throughout the county borough, 365 days a year.

Staff work in teams of three on a three-week rota and roles can include support with personal care such as washing, dressing and toileting, as well as some domestic tasks.

The council currently has vacancies in its long-term service for people needing ongoing support, its specialist service for people with dementia and BridgeStart which is short-term enabling and assessment service.

Home care staff, managers and HR representatives will be at the drop-in event to provide information, answer queries and offer assistance to anyone interested in applying for a current vacancy. There will

also be information about learning and professional development opportunities offered by BCBC to its home care workers. Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "The rising numbers of people needing support to live at home for longer means we are always looking for people to join the council's dedicated team of home care workers."

"Our home care workers gain an enormous sense of personal achievement from knowing that their job is helping people to remain in their own home and contributing to a caring society."

"This free drop-in session is a great opportunity for anyone who is looking for a change in direction or perhaps for someone who used to work in this important sector and is looking to return. Men and women of all ages and backgrounds are welcome to come along."

"The most important qualification you need is an interest in caring for people who have reached a time in their life when they need extra support. We can provide full training and the chance of a very rewarding career."

Although they each work in different areas of home care, they all agree that their jobs are hugely rewarding.

Sam is part of BCBC's BridgeStart team which provides a

short-term enabling service for people of all ages who are leaving hospital.

Sam said: "It's very satisfying to have a job which helps keep people in their own homes. My BridgeStart role means I have a particularly quick turnover of clients as the whole point is to try and get them to live as independently within six weeks."

"I can work with clients in their 20s and their 90s, so every day and every call is different. I hear a lot of people say 'I could never do that job' but there's a lot of training and ongoing support and it's a very rewarding career."

Tina works on the home care team in Bridgend town centre, helping mainly older people to remain independent in their own homes by providing personal care and support.

She said: "To be a good home care worker, you have to like meeting different people, be a good listener, and be able to build up a good rapport with clients."

Sometimes you will be the only person your client sees each day.

"I think our service does improve people's quality of life and it's brilliant in the way it helps people stay in their own homes for longer. I would like to see more men joining the service and it's a job suitable for all ages as long as you are mature in your outlook."

Sue works on the EMI home care team, which supports people with dementia within their own homes.

She said: "When you can see the progress you have made with someone you visit the sense of achievement."

"Working in the EMI team is special because you have to sometimes think for the person who has dementia and really gain their trust. It's about taking it a step at a time."

"This is a career worth having and there's a great team spirit. I love my job."



Left to right: Tina, Sue and Sam.

Police issue appeal for witnesses to fatal crash

POLICE are appealing for witnesses – after naming the victim of a fatal crash on the A4064 near Llangeinor on November 8 as 33-year-old Kelly Jenkins, a mother of four.

The accident occurred at 10.10am on the Brynmenyn to Llangeinor road in Bridgend and one vehicle was involved – a green BMW 325 car.

Her two daughters, aged 14 and 19 months, sustained injuries which required treatment at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff and the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

In a statement, Kelly's family said: "Kelly was a great mother to four special girls. She was a great girlfriend, sister, daughter and friend."

"She has left a huge hole in our hearts and also in the community. She was always the life and soul of the party; she made a massive impact on everyone's life in whoever she met. She was always up for a laugh and a joke, but always put her family first."

Inspector Jason Stroud, who is investigating the collision, said: "The road was busy at the time of the collision and we would like to speak to any person who witnessed the collision, or anyone who may have seen the vehicle being driven prior to the collision."

"We have had a good response to our appeals for witnesses to date and we are grateful to those who have contacted the police."



ABOVE:

Mother of four, Kelly Jenkins.

sion and we would like to speak to any person who witnessed the collision, or anyone who may have seen the vehicle being driven prior to the collision.

"She was always the life and soul of the party; she made a massive impact on everyone's life in whoever she met. She was always up for a laugh and a joke, but always put her family first."

Inspector Jason Stroud, who is investigating the collision, said: "The road was busy at the time of the collision and we would like to speak to any person who witnessed the collision, or anyone who may have seen the vehicle being driven prior to the collision."

"Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Wales Police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

PENCOED CRAFTS

PENCOED Town and District Twinning Association presents crafts for Christmas with a craft demonstration and craft fair, at Pencoed Welfare hall on November 23 from 7.30pm. Entry is £2.50 per person to include tea or coffee and cakes.

Bridgend Bridge Club results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings are:

November 9: First, Denis Mottram and Jane Brooks; Second, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas; Third, Ray Smith and John Evans.

November 11: First, Bill Turner and John Raymond; Second, Dian Jones and Eleanor Jones; Third, equal John Henson and Sheila Storer and Steve Burgoyne and Ann Fox.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall, there are now lessons for beginners on Wednesday (2.30pm) and improvers on Fridays (7.30pm).

Scott Wroe Hearing Centre, Penarth

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If you are having difficulty with your hearing or experiencing problems with your current hearing aid come and see your local independent hearing centre who can help.

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For example: **How good or bad is my hearing?**

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How do they work?

How much are they?

Which ones are best for me?

We will also be demonstrating Live Speech Mapping which allows us to show you how effective hearing aids are in assisting your hearing loss using real time speech. You will be able to see how speech is reaching your eardrum after being processed via our wall mounted display.

There will also be a number of free hearing tests available, so if you would like your hearing assessed, your ears examined or your current hearing aid checked please contact us to arrange an appointment.

- **FREE** Hearing test and consultation (Normally £15.00) throughout November
- Independent advice
- Try the very latest hearing products from the leading manufacturers Phonak, Widex and Oticon
- See What You Hear with the latest in Speech Mapping technology enabling you to see if your hearing aid is correctly programmed for your hearing loss

For more information or to arrange your free appointment please call 02920 707760 or call in to Scott Wroe Hearing Centre, 1 Station Approach, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3EE (Free parking opposite the shop).

Porthcawl firefighter honoured at recent award ceremonies

Coun Anthony Ernest, crew manager Gareth Richards, Lord Lieutenant Kathrin Thomas and Chief fire officer Andy Marles.

ON Thursday, November 3, crew manager Gareth Richards from Porthcawl Fire Station, was awarded his 20-year long service and good conduct medal for meritorious service from the Chief Fire Officer and the Lord Lieutenant.

Gareth said: "This is a great honour to be awarded the medal. I joined Porthcawl station as a firefighter in 1991.

"I am proud to have my commitment recognised by the brigade.

"I have attended hundreds of incidents in the Porthcawl area over my 20 years' service, and I would like to think I have contributed something back to the community



in which I live."

Station manager Carl Evans said: "Along with the rest of the crew at Porthcawl, they aim to be ready to respond to any fire or emergency in Porthcawl 24 hours a day, seven days a week from their place of work or own home in their own time.

"The commitment Gareth has given the fire station is 100 per cent.

"As he works away from Porthcawl, he has to give up 84 hours a week of his free time to be on call and help keep the residents and visitors to Porthcawl safe."

Cook takes a nursery to top!

JUST LEARNING
nursery in
Broadlands, Bridgend,
has been recognised
for its outstanding
food hygiene stan-
dards.

The Environmental

Health Officer (EHO) awarded the nursery five stars, which is the highest achievement.

Food hygiene standards and the exceptional quality of the safety procedures which are in place at the nursery contributed to the award being given.

Nursery manager Melanie Thomas said:

"Our cook, Janette Walters, and all the nursery staff, work hard to maintain every safety procedure within the nursery to the highest possible standard.

"The nursery offers

a

an excellent variety of healthy foods and snacks which are freshly prepared by hand on the premises.

"It is reassuring for

parents that our standards of hygiene are so high."

2012 flooring

The Flooring Company that comes to you!

IN THESE TROUBLED economic times, it is good to report that companies can still launch a new service and prosper.

2012 Flooring was set up by Chris Wall and his colleagues, using their product knowledge to create a business that was closely matched to the needs of customers.

Chris said "It has been a great year, and we feel we have made a real contribution to the local economy by employing local people and using local sub-contractors.

"The crucial thing, however, is the business has prospered through our ability to give people a better price than our rivals – combined with greater customer service." 2012 Flooring offers free estimates, free delivery and will uplift a customer's old carpet. We will also move any furniture that needs to be moved, and fit the cupboards. The company has also added more storage space, so that a carpet can be in stock and ready, depending on when the customer wants it fitted.

The company is proud of its website, which is informative and really helps customers make a decision. Chris added: "Once they have settled on a number of options, we will call around with a range of samples. We stock a full range of floorings, carpets to wood, and from laminates to vinyl. In fact, we are a green way of shopping, because the customer won't waste fuel driving from shop to shop. What is more, all our wood flooring is from sustainable sources."

Chris and his colleagues chose the name '2012 Flooring' because London 2012 was generating great excitement. Now, their company is moving rapidly towards 2012, and is playing a full part in the economic life of the area.



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THE PENCOED COMMUNITY TURNS OUT TO HONOUR THEIR FALLEN

Our photographer
RANDALL JOHN
was there to record the scenes as the community of Pencoed turned out to join civic and military representatives, who honoured the Fallen at moving Remembrance services throughout the Bridgend county borough,



Christmas bazaar
THE committee of Ynysawdre Village Hall is holding a Christmas bazaar on Saturday, December 3 at 11am: toys, cakes, jewellery and festive items. Entry admission 20p.

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November news from the Fonmon Apiary

by HAROLD WILLIAMS

IT has been a busy enough year so far, and contrary to all of the literature written on the craft of beekeeping, it is not over yet.

To all intents and purposes, the bees should have settled into their winter clusters – but this is not happening at all, far from it – the current mild weather is seeing the bees as busy as they have ever been.

What does it advise in the literature? Well, it advises you that the bee-keeping year begins in the autumn, and it is at this time of the year you should be thinking of treating the bees for Varroa Mites, as any bees emerging now will be the ones to take the colony through the winter.

Of course, as they emerge from their cells, they will be accompanied by the mites that carried out their breeding cycle in the same sealed cell as the newly-emerged bee.

Your treatment will help to reduce the number of mites that will go through the winter with the bees. It also advises that you remove any supers that you wish to keep containing honey, as you may contaminate the contents with any substances that are used to treat for Varroa – and as some treatments are chemically based, this is sound advice.

As of yet, there is no all year round treatment available to treat for Varroa.

The next step, is to ensure that the bees have enough stores to see them through the winter period; the recommended amount is in

the region of 40lb per hive.

If honey has been taken off, then feeding sugar-syrup (white sugar mixed with water) to make up the shortfall must be done, all this has to be done while the temperatures are still high enough to allow the bees to process the syrup to a consistency that suits them and also to allow them time to make wax and seal over the cells into which they put the syrup.

In some years, this has been sound advice and it has worked very well; however, this year as stated it is a little different, temperatures are up and the bees are very active, many of the so-called winter bees will have died by now and been replaced by our still laying queens, all the active bees need food to convert into energy to allow the colony to perform and of course any syrup fed to the bees will doubt be being consumed to provide this energy demand.

You will have to keep on feeding, so as to ensure stores are there when needed. So far, I have not yet treated any hives for Varroa, as I am still feeding some colonies, it is usual to have all feeding done before applying Varroacides!

The bees can be put off accepting the syrup by the application of mite treatments. Late as it is, I still intend to treat for Varroa before the month is out.

Many more bees die of starvation than through the ravages of Varroa – hence my desire to have the bees well stored and to tackle the Varroa second.



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Why a Vale man is running the London Marathon for Ty Hafan

A LLANBLETHIAN man has a special motivation for pounding local pavements and lanes as he trains for April's London Marathon.

Simon Farrington will be running the 26.2 miles for children's hospice Ty Hafan, a charity close to his heart.

Simon, aged 54, has a personal reason for supporting the Sully-based hospice as his brother and sister-in-law suffered a double tragedy of losing a four-year-old son and six-month-old daughter to cancer and leukaemia.

"It is many years ago, but I remember the intensity of them coping with it and their grief which, in reality, will ease but never end."

"The death of a child affects so many people, close family, friends, work colleagues, nursery teachers... Nobody is untouched by it and that is why I am full of admiration for the work done by Ty Hafan and similar hospices up and down the country," he said.

Simon has been awarded a gold Marathon slot by Ty Hafan, which means he is committed to raising a minimum £2,000 sponsorship.

"I must be mad – my wife says it is a midlife crisis – and I'm tending to agree with her. I hadn't run since my school days, when I was a pretty nifty cross-country runner, but I was two stones lighter!"

"I know I shouldn't set myself a target time, but I did the Cardiff half marathon in one hour 45 minutes, and I want to go to London fit enough to run the distance. Anything under four hours 30 minutes would be brilliant."

Journalist Simon is calling on relatives, friends and colleagues as his first port of call for sponsorship, and is hoping that local businesses will get behind his appeal and support his massive fundraising challenge.

He is also offering local WI's and other groups the chance to book him as a guest speaker on the media.

He has set up a just giving page at <http://www.justgiving.com/Simon-Farrington>. Alternatively, you can give him a call on 01446 775678, to book his public speaking services, or to offer sponsorship.



Full house for the Vale farmers' market AGM

THERE was a full house for the Vale of Glamorgan Farmers' Market AGM on November 5 at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge.

Chairman Anders Leijerstam spoke of the many successful new initiatives that had been started during the past year, including free hamper draws, visits for the Friends of the Market to producers' farms and the new market aprons.

The Farmers' Market hamper draw at the Food & Drink Festival was won by Diana Davies, from Neath.

Taking over the chairperson's role for the next two years is Vicki Lewis, of Lewis Fine Foods, Pyle and the vice-chairman is Dave Llewellyn of Great House Farm, Penllyn.

Among the new ideas for promotion of the market was the introduction of a community stall inviting people to bring along surplus garden produce with the proceeds going to charity.

A feature producer stall, giving additional space for a stallholder to feature their produce is to be introduced at Cowbridge Farmers' Market on November 19, when Venison from the Vale will highlight their deer park.

Did you know we have a historic deer park in the Vale of Glamorgan that dates from the 1640s? Still in its original form, Llantrithyd Deer Park runs a herd of Red and Fallow deer to provide Prime Organic Venison that is 100% natural, 100% organic and 100% traceable.

There is the opportunity to learn more about the fantastic health giving benefits of venison by visiting Venison from the Vale's Feature stall at Cowbridge Farmers' Market this Saturday, November 19.

You can learn the story of the park, enjoy free tasters, recipes and cooking advice. On sale will be delicious organic steaks, loin medallions, haunch joints, diced and minced venison, sausages and burgers, as well as a variety of antler products.

There will also be voucher promotions and a free Christmas hamper draw at Cowbridge and Penarth markets before Christmas and many other new initiatives for the coming year are to be considered.

Special thanks went to Sheena Sergeant and Molly Ranger of Cowbridge Country Markets for the delicious lunch of soup and cake that they provided for stallholders.

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CHRISTMAS MARKET

ST NICHOLAS parish church is holding a Christmas market fair at the church hall, St Nicholas, on Saturday, November 26 at 2pm-4pm.

Stalls include crafts, cakes, preserves, books etc. Entry £1 at the door to include tea/coffee and a mince pie.

All proceeds will go to the St Nicholas church restoration appeal.

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plus DISCO til 2am - £10 including meal
A few tickets remaining

Wednesday 23rd November
Medium/Clairvoyant Mystic Minnie SIMONE JOHNSON
£10 including meal (Ticket only)

Saturday 26th November
BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE
Reggae Night
£10 including Meal (Ticket only)

Saturday 10th December
LADIES NIGHT
'Full Monty' plus Drag Act
£20 including Meal (Ticket only)

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High on style, low on substance...

IMMORTALS FAILS TO LIVE LONG IN THE MEMORY!

If the success of last year's Clash Of The Titans proved anything (apart from that post-converting films from 2D to 3D) it was a terrible, terrible decision! It was that audiences were more than up for a little bit of gods and titans smacking the seven bells out of each other.

With a Titans sequel heading our way next year, appetites will no doubt be sated by

Immortals. It tells the tale of King Hyperion (Mickey Rourke), a man who is intent on freeing trapped titans and unleashing them on the gods so that he can take control of the world; however Zeus (Luke Evans) has other ideas, and chooses Theseus (Henry Cavill) to lead the fightback against Hyperion and stop his dastardly plans...

If there was one thing guaranteed about

Immortals from the get-go, it was that it was going to be visually outstanding. With Tarsem Singh in the director's chair, a mundane visual outing was the last thing that would be popping up on the big screen.

After all, while pilloried critically, his debut outing, *The Cell*, was an intriguing piece of work, while the arresting *The Fall* in 2006 showed just how gifted a visual director he was with a beautiful piece of film-making.

Sadly, such inspiration appears to have been in short supply here, as *Immortals* is a laden, dull as dishwater piece of work that while easy on the eye, blunders the brain into submission long before its overlong and drawn-out conclusion - in short, it's a film that certainly won't live long in the memory.

Anybody who found *Clash Of The Titans* to be as exciting as watching paint slowly dry, would be best served avoiding the cinema and settling down for a nice

WHAT'S ON - in brief

Festive tasters
COWBRIDGE country market's Christmas taster day is being held in the Lesser Hall on Friday, November 18 from 10am-11.30am.

Stamps fair

BARRY Philatelic Society autumn fair

will be held at the Highlight Community Centre, Port Road, Barry, from 10am-4.30pm on Saturday, November 19, admission 50p.

Vale surgery

THE Cowbridge ward members on the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Couns Geoff Cox, Val Ellis and Hunter Jarvie, will be holding

Appointments are not necessary.

Candle-lit concert

THERE will be a candle-lit concert at St

Donat's Church (below the castle) on Sunday

(November 20) at 4pm.

Vocal and instrumental music presented by the Atlantic College

community. Tickets £5

including refreshments,

available from

Nickleby's Book Shop, St Donat's Church members or pay on the door.

Christmas market

CHRISTMAS market at Cowbridge

Comprehensive School

on Sunday, November 20. Even bigger and better this year!

Browse 70 stalls,

enjoy mulled wine and a

home-made mince pie.

Gift wrapping service.

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Valeways walks**REMEMBRANCE**

Day walk, Sunday,

November 20 at 2pm,

from St Peter's Church, Mill Road,

Dinas Powys.

Promenade and parks

walk, Tuesday,

November 22 at 1.30pm

from Penarth Cliff Top car park.

CADS comedy

CADS' autumn produc-

tion, *The Secretary Bird*,

a comedy by William

Douglas Home, can be seen

between November 23-

26 at 7.30pm in the

Market Theatre.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

paint in a quaint pub, as *Immortals* simply takes the *Clash Of The Titans* story and rejigs it for its own ends.

But it isn't just lazy storytelling that screen-writers Charley and Vlas Parlapandies are guilty

of; they can also be tried on counts of failure to create anything other than cardboard cut-out characters - dialogue so wooden, you could carve a rocking chair out of it - and a distinct lack of invention.

While the concept of gods fighting titans is something of a thrilling one, it is reduced to a boring concept by the writers, neither of whom bring anything meaningful or worthwhile to the proceedings.

The malaise stretches

to the performances with the cast having the misfortune of bringing the Parlapandies' script to life and attempting to do something good with it. So you have bright young thing Henry Cavill gamely trying his best with a character straight from the cliched book of leading man stereotypes, right down to a gamely-delivered 'rousing' speech that has all the impact of a pillow on steel. That Cavill will be bringing Superman to life isn't too concerning - he has a degree of charm and ability that a better script would make better use of, but here he is fighting a losing battle.

Mickey Rourke appears to be enjoying the chance to earn money just by showing up; his evil king again

cut from the cliched cloth that bore Theseus. He seems unconcerned about creating an indelible character, his performance smacking of the utmost laziness.

Underneath them, the likes of Freida Pinto, Stephen Dorff, Luke Evans and John Hurt all test the credibility of their equity cards with weak to poor performances, meaning that a fairly decent cast are undone by turns that aren't particularly good and fail to overcome the shortcomings of the writing.

The only light at the end of this rather dark tunnel lies in the direction of Singh, who even though seeming to have an off-day, offers enough stylised visuals to distract from the dross elsewhere.

Using a (fairly) seamless blend of set and CGI, along with enough slow-motion to make even Zack Snyder jealous, the film maintains a visual interest even when all around it is crumbling; had Singh been able to marshal a

better script, then *Immortals* would certainly be a worthy piece of work that, like the best films, balances what you see on screen with a compelling narrative.

However, like much of Hollywood's blockbuster output, *Immortals* has plenty of style and very little substance and though the hard-hitting action and style covers some cracks, it is unable to shore up what is a very poor piece of work indeed.

VERDICT - Visually impressive, *Immortals*

certainly looks the part - but dig a little deeper and no amount of clever direction from Tarsem Singh can overcome the woeful script and weak turns. Its fantasy grounding and visceral violence may draw certain people in, but those who prefer to be entertained mentally, as well as visually, should keep away. *Poor*.
SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: 300 (2006), Clash of the Titans (2010)

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4.30pm Watch the switch on of the Christmas lights
Carol singing around the Christmas Tree - Queen St.

25th 26th 27th November 11am-5pm
Christmas Art & Craft Market - Caroline St.

Saturday 3rd December 11am-4pm
Ride on the Christmas Express - Queen St.

2nd 3rd 4th December 11am-5pm
Christmas Food Fayre Market - Caroline St.

Saturday 10th December 2pm
Elves wanted to beat last year's world record of 678. Just wear a red or green jumper and an elf hat and we will see you at the gathering of the elves in Adore Street at 2pm

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FREE Christmas parking Bridgend and Porthcawl After 2pm between Monday 12th to Saturday 17th December, after 10am between Monday 19th to Saturday 24th December.

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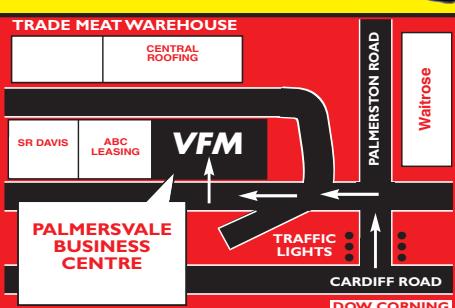
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Christmas 2011 in Barry...

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LIGHT UP THE SQUARE

KING SQUARE, FRI 2 DECEMBER, 5:30PM - 8PM

Don't miss the giant illuminated winterwonderland birds, live music from 'All That Jazz' and 'Wonderbrass', street entertainers and performance fire shows from Flame On. The Christmas lights on the Square and the real Christmas Tree will be turned on at 7.30pm.

SANTA'S SNOW GROTTO

CENTRAL PARK, SAT 10 DECEMBER, 10AM - 3PM

For one day only, Santa and his grotto will be coming to town. The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, ice sculpting, play workshops and street entertainers, with live music from 'All That Jazz', 'The Bucket Band' and 'RAF St Althen Brass Band'.



For further details please call 01446 704737 or visit
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A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

JPL - A TRUE SUCCESS!

JPL SOUND, The Barry Music Shop, is as well known throughout south Wales as it is in its home town.

Situated at the top end of Holton Road, it provides expert advice on all things musical, but John Lewis and his staff also travel far and wide, providing stages, sound systems and lighting for dozens of events.

John explained: "We've done the Barry Firework Fiesta for 37 years, and this year, it was great to have a record turn-out."

"The crowds were huge and ready half an hour before the start of the fireworks."

Not only did JPL Sound supply the sound, John doubled up to provide the commentary, as well!

But that is just one of the many events that the staff cover.

"We did the Armistice Day event at the Civic Offices, and on Sunday, Barry's Remembrance Day events, both out doors and in doors."

In fact, Remembrance Day demonstrates JPL Sound's commitment to serving the south Wales community, because John and his staff also provide sound systems for Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Penarth and four locations in Blaenau Gwent.

The company also supports the Vale Show, the Bridgend Show, the Usk Show, the GB Rally, the Cardiff Half Marathon, and goes to the west country for the Weston Beach Race, a motocross endurance event.

At this time of the year, John and his assistant, Sam Osborne, provide helpful advice to people wanting to buy instruments like guitars as Christmas presents.

"We will take a guitar out of the box and make sure it is working properly and that people have the right leads and accessories."



John and Sam offer expert advice on all things musical at JPL Sound.

Sound's commitment to serving the south Wales community, because John and his staff also provide sound systems for Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Penarth and four locations in Blaenau Gwent.

"It avoids people having problems on Christmas Day with things not working. That is a disappointment to the person receiving the gift and the person giving it."

One of the great ironies for JPL Sound is that many people buy online presents for Christmas and then come rushing into them

because they have a problem with their product. It means the customer ends up paying for the product and the repair, whereas if they'd bought with JPL in the first place, the warranty would cover the cost of repair.

John emphasised that when people buy online, they can't see the product – and that it is simpler to take an hour out of their day to pop into the shop to see exactly what they are purchasing and that it is the right thing for them.

It means Christmas Day is more likely to go smoothly than end up in frustration!

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AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REMEMBRANCE

PARK Funeral Directors opened on Tynewydd Road 15 months ago and has already become an established part of the town centre.

The principal, Lyndsay Ellis, says: "There were a number of locations we considered, but we are glad we chose

this city centre location, because it is at the heart of the local community."

Lyndsay pointed out that a couple of years ago, there had been some empty premises in the area – but new businesses had entered the fray and it was as vibrant as ever.

As a measure of the company's commitment

He explained: "I had a woman who expressed an interest in coming along to the service.

"She had lost her mother and father in a short period of time, but the funerals had been dealt with by another director.

"I told her that didn't matter – anyone is welcome to come to the service."

"It will be an uplifting occasion, incorporating poems and prayers, and there will be a time of reflection when the names of loved ones will be read out.

"We will hold the service in our Garden Of Reflection on Tynewydd Road. The service is to take place on Saturday, November 26, at 2pm.

"After the service, all will be welcome back to our premises, where they will be given the opportunity to place a message on to our Christmas memorial tree. Mince pies and mulled wine will also be available."



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Normal competition rules apply. Closing date Friday, 25th November, 2011.

Rahil Tandoori hosts a charity event for Shahjahan Foundation



ABOVE: Staff at the Rahil Tandoori hope to raise money for SFUK to help people in Barry.

THE award-winning Rahil Tandoori has teamed up with the Barry-based charity SFUK (Shahjahan Foundation) to host an evening full of food, entertainment and fundraising.

The Rahil Tandoori on Holton Road in Barry will be serving up a 10-course meal for the event, as well as hosting a charity auction and raffle.

Guests will include Vale MP Alun Cairns, the headteacher of Barry Comprehensive school, David Swallow OBE, classical cross-over singer and former Miss Wales Courtenay Hamilton, and the current Miss Wales, Sara Manchipp.

The funds raised will be donated to SFUK, a voluntary service organisation that supports educational, social, health and community projects predominantly in Barry.

The organisation seeks to support and serve mothers and children in the local community, promoting and hosting local events, including art projects and sport classes.

The charity hopes that with the money raised, it will be able to arrange trips to London, as well as providing other activities.

The charity dinner will take place on Sunday, November 27. The Rahil Tandoori invites anyone to join the event; however, limited spaces are available, so advance booking is recommended. Tickets cost £9.95.

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• 45% of drivers said their biggest fear about driving in the winter was that they were more likely to have an accident as the roads felt more slippery.

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• 15% were involved in, or witnessed, an accident.

• 12% narrowly avoided a collision.

• 1 in 6 drivers had to abandon their journey.

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GYDAG ychydig dros 8 mis i fynd cyn dechrau Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, a gynhelir ar hen faes awyrr. Llandw' o 4-11 Awst y flywyddyn nesaf, mae'r Eisteddfod a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg yn cyd-drefnu digwyddiad arbennig er mwyn i gwmniau a busnesau lleol ar hyd a lled y Fron gael gwylod mwym am y gwasanaethau y bydd y Brifwyl am eu prynu a'u hurio dros y misedd nesaf.

Meddai Elfed Roberts, Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod, "Rydym aengen pob mathau o offer, gwasanaethau a chynnyrch wrth i'r gwylod o ddatblygu'r Maes fynd rhagdod, a rydym bob amser yn awyddus i glywed gan fusesau lleol sy'n gallu cynnig y gwasanaethau i mewn i ni am brisiau cys-tadleuol.

"Bwriad y digwyddiad 'Cwrd a'r Prynwyr' a gynhelir ar 29 Tachwedd, yw rhoi cyfle i fasnachwyr lleol ddysgu mwym am ein hanghe-nion m ac i minnau gael gwylod pa wasanaethau a chynnyrch sydd ar gael yn lleol. Yn naturiol, mae'r rhaid i'r Eisteddfod chwilio am y prisau mwyafrif cys-tadleuol bob tro, ac mae digwyddiad fel hwn yn gyflwyni i bobl fusesun am sut i gofrestu ar gyfer y digwyddiad. Dyddiad

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of The Vale of Glamorgan 2012 Eisteddfod



"Mae manylion y gwasanaethau y byddwn eu hangen ar gael ar ein gwylod yn yr adran fuses. Rydym hefyd yn cyhoeddi manylion cyfleoedd i gynnig prisiau arlein yn yr adran hon. Rydym i ddilochgar i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am eu cymorth a'u cydweithreidiad parod gyda'r digwyddiad hwn a gobeithio y bydd nifer fawr o fusesau o ddalgyrch yr Eisteddfod yn awyddus i gydweithio gyda ni dros y misedd nesaf.

"Dros y blynnyddoedd diwethaf mae arolygion ymchwili annibynol wedi cael ei ddeuwis i fod yn rhan o 'Wyl Shakespeare' y Byd a gyrraedd ym gallu elwa'n economaidd o £6-£8 milifiwn o ymwelliad yr Eisteddfod. Er bod cyfran o'r arian hwn yn mynd i'r sektor dwristiaeth a lletygarwch, rydym hefyd yn gwarrio cyfran dda ar mwynnau da i gwasanaethau yn lleol.

Oes genynnchi chi a'ch busnes ddiddordeb mewn cael gwylod mwym ar ym sydd ar gael, dwech i'n gweld yn Y Barri diliwedd y mis."

Cynhelir y sesiwn 'Cwrd a'r Prynwyr' yn Neuadd Goffa Y Barri am 14.00, ddydd Mawrth 29 Tachwedd. Ewch i wefan yr Eisteddfod – www.eisteddfod.org.uk am fanylion llawn am sut i gofrestu ar gyfer y digwyddiad. Dyddiad

cau ar gyfer cofrestru – 22 Tachwedd.
Yr Eisteddfod a'r Olympiad Celfyddydol!
DAETH newyddion cyfrifol iawn yr wythnos hon wrth iddu o brif sefydliadau celfyddydol Cymru ddatgelu y bydd eu prosiectau nhw ar gyfer yr Olympiad Celfyddydol yn dod i Faes yr Eisteddfod yn Llandw'.

Cyhoeddodd Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru bod un o'u cychryniadau wedi cael ei ddeuwis i fod yn rhan o 'Wyl Shakespeare' y Byd a gyrraedd ym gallu elwa'n economaidd o £6-£8 milifiwn o ymwelliad yr Eisteddfod. Er bod cyfran o'r arian hwn yn mynd i'r sektor dwristiaeth a lletygarwch, rydym hefyd yn gwarrio cyfran dda ar mwynnau da i gwasanaethau yn lleol. Oes genynnchi chi a'ch busnes ddiddordeb mewn cael gwylod mwym ar ym sydd ar gael, dwech i'n gweld yn Y Barri diliwedd y mis.

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nwyd y gyfarwyddwraig amryddawn Elen Bowman (Deffro'r Gwanwyn, The Devil Inside Him), y Cyfansodwr Simon Allen (Royal National Theatre) a'r coreograffydd a'r cyfarwyddwr symud Liz Ranken (Royal Shakespeare Company).

Yn ogystal cafwyd cadarnhau gan Gyngor Celfyddydau Cymru y bydd eu prosiectau nhw Adain Avion hefyd yn ymwyd a'r Eisteddfod. Fe fydd Adain Avion sef awyren DC-9 yn cael ymwyd a 4 safle yng Nghymru gan gynnwys Maes yr Eisteddfod yn Llandw' rhwng 24 o Fehafn a 11 Awst 2011 gyda'r bwriad o drefn rhaglen o weithgareddau diwylliannol ym mhob ardal.

Dyma'r digwyddiadau cyntaf i gael eu cadarnhau ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod flywyd yn nesaf. Dros y misedd nesaf bydd mwyr o artiadau a pherfformiadau yn cael eu cadarnhau er mwyn sicrhau bod Eisteddfod 2012 yn un i'w choilio!

Businesses see what the Eisteddfod has to offer!
WITH little more than eight months to go before the National Eisteddfod is held at

Eisteddfod has to look for the most competitive prices, and an event like this is a great chance to talk and for the local business sector to find out what work will be available.

"Details of all the services we will need are available in the business section on the

Eisteddfod website. We

are also publishing

details of opportunities

to quote for work in this section.

"We are grateful to the Vale Council for their help and support in organising this event, and hope that many businesses from the local area will be keen to work with us over the next few months.

"Over the past few years, independent research has shown that the local area benefits £6-£8 million from the Eisteddfod's visit. Part of this money does go to the tourism and leisure, and we also spend a significant amount on services and goods locally.

"If you and your business would like to know more, please register to join us in Barry at the end of the month."

The Meet the Buyer session is held at Barry Memorial Hall at 2pm



on Tuesday, November 29.

Go to the Eisteddfod website – www.eisteddfod.org.uk – for full details on how to register for the event. Registration deadline – November 22.

The aim of the 'Meet the Buyer' event, held on November 29, is to give local businesses an opportunity to find out more about our needs and for us to see what services and goods are available locally.

"Naturally, the Eisteddfod has to look for the most competitive prices, and an event like this is a great chance to talk and for the local business sector to find out what work will be available.

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produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company for the London 2012 Festival – the official culture programme of the Olympic Games.

"Y Storm", a Welsh language translation of William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', will be performed in association with the National Eisteddfod on the Eisteddfod 'maes' (site) next August.

In a new Welsh language translation by former National Poet of Wales, Gwyneth Lewis and with live music, circus and magic, Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru (the Welsh language-National Theatre) will bring to life this daring and remarkable classic, regarded as Shakespeare's most ambitious play. The creative team will include Elen Bowman

(Deffro'r Gwanwyn, The Devil Inside Him), Composer Simon Allen (Royal National Theatre) and movement director and choreographer Liz Ranken (Royal Shakespeare Company).

In addition, Arts Council Wales announced that their project 'Adain Avion' will also be visiting the Eisteddfod. Adain Avion, a DC-9 aircraft will visit four sites in Wales which includes the National Eisteddfod with the intention to hold a series of cultural events in each area within the aircraft.

These are the first events to be confirmed for next year's Eisteddfod.

More artists and performances will be confirmed to ensure that the 2012 Eisteddfod will be one to remember!

C E F
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Grand Opening
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It's an exciting time for us at the branch and to give it a grand opening we are having a TRADE day on Monday 21st November.

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- Kewtech - Demos from a market leader in the Electrical Testing Equipment
- Tamlite - Our in-house lighting manufacturer. On show will be the NEW LED PRODUCTS Tamlite have brought to market.

The day will be starting at 8.00am and will run until 2.00pm. Refreshments and bacon buns will be provided for the early birds.

So come along and see our new premises and maybe grab yourself a bargain and a bacon bap!

We look forward to seeing you there!

SPECIAL OFFERS

PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITY

Tuesday, 29th November 2011
1.30pm Registration
2:00pm Seminar Commences
Barry Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road,
Barry, CF62 8NA
(Free Parking available)

Are you a Vale of Glamorgan based business? If yes, are you interested in tendering for goods and services for Wales' leading festival's visit to the Vale in 2012? The National Eisteddfod will be held in Llandow, Vale of Glamorgan next August.

Please register your interest to attend this seminar to learn more about the opportunities available and how you can submit a tender. Registration deadline is 22nd November 2011.

For further details about the Eisteddfod and its requirements please visit www.eisteddfod.org.uk. To register your place at this event please call the Vale of Glamorgan Council via the contact details below.

Please note: places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Emma Smith
Principal Officer for Economic Development
BSC, Innovation Quarter, Hood Road, Barry, CF62 5QN
Tel: (01446) 704601/704878
email: esmith@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



CYFLEOEDD CAFFAEL

Dydd Mawrth, 29ain Tachwedd 2011
1.30pm Cofrestru
2:00pm Cyflwyniad i ddechrau Neuadd Goffa Y Barri, Ffordd Gladstone, Y Barri, CF62 8NA (Parcio am ddin)

Ydych chi yn gwylod lleol ym Mr Morganwg? Os ydych, oes ganddoch ddiddordeb mewn cyflenwi nwyddau a gwasanaethau i wyl flaenaf Cymru fydd yn ymwyd a'r Fro yn 2012? Cynhelir yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn Llandw' Bro Morganwg fis Awst nesaf.

Cofrestrwch eich ddiddordeb i fynychur'r digwyddiad yma i gael gwylod mwym am y cyfleoedd fydd ar gael a sut i gynning prisiau. Dydriad olaf i gofrestu yw yr 22ain Tachwedd 2011.

Am wybodaeth bellach am yr Eisteddfod a'i anghenion ewch i www.eisteddfod.org.uk. I gofrestwch eich lle yn y digwyddiad yma cyfleoedd fydd ar gael a sut i gynning prisiau. Dydriad olaf i gofrestu yw yr 22ain Tachwedd 2011.

Noder: mae llefydd yn brin felly cofrestrwch yn tuan i osgoi siomedigaeth.

Emma Smith
Prif Swyddog Datblygu'r Economi BSC, Innovation Quarter, Ffordd Hood, Y Barri, CF62 5QN
Ffôn: (01446) 704601/704878
ebost: esmith@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Sorry, Daniel!
IN our report on November 3, on a Pencoed volunteer soldier with the Welsh Transport Regiment who took part in Exercise Cambrian Patrol, it should have stated that he was Private Daniel (not David) Bateman.

Visit our website: www.cefc.co.uk



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE by Richard Sims
Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Festive fayre

THE Bridgend and District branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society are holding their Christmas fayre in Pyle Library on Saturday, November 19 from 10am-12noon.

There will be many stalls, including home-made cakes, hand crafts and hand-made cards. There will also be tombola and a raffle.

Pupils rewarded

Congratulations to the following pupils of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Ellie Bevan – Class 1, Thomas Knapp – Class 2, George Buckley – Class 3, Aneurin Lewis – Class 4, Scott Roberts – Class 5, Lauren Cooper – Class 6, and Imogen Davies from Class 7. The headteacher's award went to Gareth Davies.

Congratulations also go to Dylan Phillips, Jude Abraham-Jones, Thomas Knapp, Megan Radmore, Emily Walters, Connor John, Eryn-Mae Franklyn, Anwen Sleath and Kate Thomas for their excellent behaviour during lunchtimes last week and as a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

Computers – If you are looking for a computer or computer equipment, Computer Recyclers are setting up a stall where you can purchase or order reconditioned equipment at a fraction of the cost. Laptops can be obtained from £130 to £200, including VAT.

Eco-Schools – As part of their eco-work, the school is providing recycling opportunities for household batteries, printer cartridges and mobile phones. Last Thursday, November 10, the school was inspected to see if it met the necessary eco targets.

A number of pupils have been responsible for ensuring that the school was on line to meet the targets and the good news was that they are now entitled to fly

the second Green Flag. **WWF** – As a result of their recent eco activities and cake sale the school has now adopted a Orang-Utan through the World Wildlife Scheme to help endangered species. They raised a sum of £230 which will go towards the cost of providing a safer environment for the endangered Orang-Utans.

Junior craft

ONCE again, the very successful junior craft class will be run by Coun Paula James in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on Saturday, December 19.

It will be held for two hours between 10am and noon and admission is free. It is an opportunity for children to make personal Christmas cards and presents for family and friends.

Mrs James, who will be assisted by members of Craft Club, will be donating the materials required. Parents are welcome so long as they are accompanied by a responsible child. For further details of this fun morning, ring Paula on 01656 741160.

Precept stays GOOD news from the Pyle Community Council: It has been confirmed that for the fourth year running the council has not raised its precept, meaning that there will not be an increase on their part in the council tax for the Pyle area for the year 2011-2012.

Mynydd Infants School

HEALTHY Food Week – Last week, the school held a successful 'Healthy Food Week' when the excellent school cook, Sarah Llewellyn and her assistants Nicola Rock, Debra Evans, Sara Evans and Michaela Powell served up tasty and exciting dishes from around the world as part of the 'National School Meal Week'.

The children, while thoroughly enjoying the week, also researched a

Kenfig Hill FOOD Bank – If anyone would like to donate food for those people who are in need of help from Social Services and hold vouchers from them, please take your donations of non-perishable food and put it in the basket at the back of

Father Christmas – On Wednesday, November 22, Father Christmas photographs will be taken. Also on Wednesday, there will be a Building Blocks Performance for Children in Reception to year-2. There is no charge to children for this show as it is being paid for by the school fund.



School cook Sarah Llewellyn (left) and her kitchen assistants who ABOVE: produced meals from around the world for National School Meal Week – Nicola Rock, Debra Evans, Sara Evans and Michaela Powell.

variety of countries and developed their knowledge of the world through a wide range of hands on and interactive activities.

The children would like to thank the kitchen staff for continuing to serve delicious, healthy and tasty meals.

Book fayre – A book fayre was held in the school last week by Schoolastic Books who also gave the children a story telling session.

Their mascot 'Clifford', the big red dog, also made a surprise appearance.

Children in Need – Tomorrow, Friday, November 18, pupils can go to school dressed up in 'Spots', they can be spotty clothes, spotty hair or anything spotty. There are a few badges left at 25p, but they would also like a donation if possible towards this very good cause.

Presentation – On Monday, November 21, there will be a presentation assembly for last year's class six (they are in the juniors now) who won joint first prize in SACRE. All parents are welcome.

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Kenfig Hill FOOD Bank – If anyone would like to donate food for those people who are in need of help from Social Services and hold vouchers from them, please take your donations of non-perishable food and put it in the basket at the back of

the church.

However, for the rest of this month could you please bias any donations towards babies.

The Advent Parish Sunday Lunch is being held in the Grove Golf Club on Sunday, November 27. Anyone wishing to go should leave their name on the list by November 21.

Wellbeing Centre THE activities being held by the Mental Health Matters, Wales on Wednesday, November 23 in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road include a talk on fuel poverty given by Carol from 1pm-2pm and reading with John from 3pm-4pm.

There is also a great social afternoon from 1pm-5pm when everyone is welcome to go and enjoy a relaxed afternoon in a friendly environment with a cup of coffee, or join in the various activities that are provided.

Parish of Pyle & Kenfig THE Christmas fayre will take place in the Church Hall on Friday, November 25 from 5.30pm.

It will be full of festive stalls and rumour has it that a certain 'Father Christmas' will be finding time in his busy schedule to call in.

Parish Calendar – The calendar is now available at just £4 each. They make great Christmas presents, so why not call in and buy one.

Bible Lands – Well done to Katherine, Julie and all those who supported for raising in excess of £900 for Bible Lands this year.

Movietime – Everyone is welcome to a showing of an older

film in St James' Church Hall this afternoon at 2pm.

For details of activities in the parish, ring the Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500 or 07766 710373.

Pisgah Chapel

THE Pisgah Ladies Fellowship – would like to announce that due to the lack of interest their Christmas shopping trip to Bristol has been cancelled.

However, the coffee evening to be held on Thursday, November 24 at 7pm when the new kitchen will be dedicated and officially opened will go ahead as scheduled. Admission is free and all are welcome to join them.

For all information regarding the events being held by the Ladies Fellowship, ring either Rhian on 744722 or Karen on 740684.

Neighbourhood Watch

HALLOWEEN Anti-Social behaviour – Although there were concerns by the community about loutish behaviour on Halloween night, a strong police presence kept it to a minimum.

In total, there were nine reports of anti-social behaviour on the night, in the Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Cefn Cribwr areas.

The neighbourhood Policing Team reported that the most common complaint was against groups of youths throwing objects such as eggs at houses, but there were no confirmed reports of any damage.

However, three ASBO referrals have been submitted against persons who were found to have been involved.

Prowlers – Pyle NPT have received two reports regarding a late night prowler in the rear gardens in Pyle and Kenfig Hill. A few sheds have been broken into, resulting in a few low value items being stolen. The Police Team would like to remind all residents to make sure that all windows and doors are locked securely at night and also secure all valuable property.

If you have any issues you would like to discuss in strict confidence, you can ring Sgt Jenkins on 07584 004254, Jon on 07805 301491 or Nerys on 07805 301493.

Upset in Kenfig as Remembrance service ends early

AFTER last year's year. It was also good to see our local vicars, returned to the community of Kenfig Hill for the Remembrance Service in St Theodore's Church and for the parade down to the memorial.

Unfortunately, he carried on immediately and called for the two minutes silence to be observed at 10.50am, instead of the traditional 11am.

However, it all ended on a slightly sour note, when the service concluded a little early and the proceedings were taken over by a representative of the Royal British Legion.

Instead of asking the Reverends to fill in for a few minutes, or even waiting, the dignity of the occasion was spoilt when due to his

RICHARD SIMS

Kenfig Hill cadets joined the parade



Cadets and staff.



Cadet Leadbetter laying the ATC wreath.



ABOVE: Cadet Sadd laying the RAFA wreath.

STAFF and cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC took part in this year's Remembrance Parade in Kenfig Hill which also sees the 90th anniversary of the Poppy Appeal by the Royal British Legion.

The cadets attended a Remembrance Service at St Theodore's Church before marching down to the Cenotaph.

Staff Cadet Warrant Officer Kinsey Williams carried the standard for the Squadron, while Cadet Keiron Leadbetter laid the wreath on behalf of Kenfig Hill ATC and Cadet Jakob Sadd laid the wreath on behalf of the Royal Air Force Association, Porthcawl and Kenfig Hill Branch.

Staff and cadets were under the command of Flt Lt Gary Woodward, squadron Adjutant.

Lindsay Thomas (Secretary, Civilian Committee)



Mynydd Cynffig Infants School with Clifford the Schoolastic Books Big Red Dog.



Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



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LLANTWIT MAJOR PREPARES FOR A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS!

by PHILIP IRWIN

piece."

It is intended to use the Llantwit Hall as a 'workshop' – so that young people can come along during the day, make their own lantern, and then join the evening procession.

There will also be stalls and musical entertainment at the Precinct.

The secretary of the Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade, Janet Moisan, told The GEM that it had been a 'mixed year', but that work which had taken place in the town was now bearing fruit.

The Boverton Road regeneration project was now complete, and she said that this would be shown off to its best advantage when the traditional switching-on of the Christmas lights takes place, on December 3.

She said: "We are planning to include all the popular features of the day, with a lantern parade for the children as a centre-

finery to switch on the lights.

Janet Moisan told The GEM that next year was an exciting year for the town, and traders felt that Llantwit, now that the town improvements were complete, was in a strong position to take advantage.

She said: "We are very conscious that the Welsh National Eisteddfod will be coming to Llandow in August 2012, and we see this as a great opportunity to let visitors find out more about Llantwit, and to see the town at its best."

She emphasised: "There should be a considerable 'knock-on' effect."

"It may not necessarily mean more cash being spent in the town at the time of the Eisteddfod, but it will really raise the profile of the area."

She said that businesses, such as the chamber of trade and the town council, had a long-term aim of working together to make Llantwit Major really special, and that all the recent

work was helping to make this happen.

Certainly, Filco has backed its confidence in the town with hard cash, and the recently-opened Toy Plaza is emphatic evidence of that.

At a time of year, when shopping can be a stressful experience, the combination of free parking and a relaxed atmosphere is a really strong argument for checking out your local traders first – rather than joining the frenetic scramble in the city centre or retail park.

Llantwit's strength is that it still retains so many of the features of a rural market town, with traders who own their own business and who give personal service to customers.

At this time of year, many of the businesses are able to provide what the festive customer needs, with a bookshop, sweet shops, pharmacies, jewellery, florists and gift shops – all with stock that can make Christmas extra special.

New butcher gets a Llantwit Major welcome



ABOVE: Eric Smith has been pleased to receive a warm welcome to Llantwit – in the form of a healthy Christmas order book.

A SHORT
while ago,
The GEM wrote about the retirement of Llantwit Major's local butcher, Alan Young.

During the interview, Mr Young revealed that he had feared that the shop would close, until at the last minute, a fellow master butcher stepped in to take it over.

So, with Christmas in mind, The GEM called in to see how the new

man, Eric Smith, was settling in.

The shop was looking very much the same – Eric has no plans to change it – with a display of pheasants hanging outside.

He said: "It has been a great start and it is great to be able to point to the meat we stock, and say that it is all local.

"People have been very welcoming, and I have already had orders for 50 turkeys, as well as ducks, hams and other Christmas treats!"

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Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Double dose of perfection for Llantwit Major's festive lights switch-on!



ABOVE: Kate-Alicia with her proud mum!

by PHILIP IRWIN

A MEMBER of staff at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, will be switching on the Christmas lights in the town this year – her first appearance after winning the title of Europe's Perfect Woman.

Kate-Alicia Morgan, who lives in Barry, won that accolade in a recent pageant event in Portcawl's Grand Pavilion.

The event, very much inspired by the pageant scene in the USA, was backed by an American company and Kate-Alicia will now get the chance to go out to Florida and compete in the world final next year.

Kate-Alicia told The GEM: "There were two contests on the night – Europe's Perfect Teen and Europe's Perfect Woman – and Barry girls won both!"

The winner of the perfect teen section was Jeyanne Wiltshire, and she and Kate-Alicia will be attending

events together during their year in office.

The switching-on of the lights in Llantwit will be their first joint venture.

She said: "There were three rounds during the pageant – a 'denim' round, which was casual, a 'wow' round where we had to wear something with the wow factor, and an evening ball gown round."

Kate-Alicia has been working at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School for two-and-a-half years, and is a cover supervisor, working with pupils from years 7 to 11.

She went to Bryn Hafren School in Barry, and after leaving, worked as a fashion manager, before deciding that she wanted to work with children.

She said: "I really enjoyed the pageant, and Jeyanne and I are looking forward to appearing at Llantwit major on December 3rd."

He said: "The volunteers here do a lot for the

Volunteers remember those who are in need at Christmas



ABOVE: Volunteers Rosemarie Flanagan and Helen Roberts are hoping that Christmas at New Hope will raise plenty of cash for good causes.

WITH Christmas approaching, it is always important to remember those less well off, and all the volunteers at New Hope in Llantwit Major have this very much in mind.

Over the years, the charitable enterprise has raised money to fund a large number of projects in Nicaragua – all designed to help people there to become more self sufficient.

Much of their funding comes from their Llantwit Major shop, and Gordon Taylor of New Hope was quick to pay tribute to his volunteers.

He said: "The volunteers here do a lot for the

community. As well as serving in the shop, some were out last Remembrance Sunday, in the town hall, preparing tea and coffee for people who had attended the parade and service at the Cenotaph."

He was full of praise, also, for all the volunteers who help make the shop such a welcoming and well-presented enterprise.

He said: "We have people of all ages helping us here, and they do a great job. Some are not in the best of health, but everyone does their very best!"

He added that New Hope was currently in discussions about extending the services it offers, and he was hopeful of making an announcement in the New Year.

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Continental & British Chocolates, Greeting Cards,
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Eat in/Recharge your batteries . . .
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Pop in and see us, prices are lower than many retailers and we haven't got it, ask and we'll see if we can order it.

Why not get yourself ready for winter, Rock Salt, Snow Shovels and Sledges available now!

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The Christmas Season starts for Llantwit Major Craft and Gift Fairs
Saturday 19th November 10.00am - 3.30pm
In the Llantorian Hall, (behind the library) LLANTWIT MAJOR

Do some Christmas Shopping or treat yourself!

Lots of stalls with a great variety of crafts and gifts.

• Yummy Refreshments

• Santa's Grotto

More Christmas events on Saturday 3rd Dec and Saturday 17th Dec



The Flower Shop
The Florist for all occasions!
Bouquets, Arrangements,
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Christmas Decorations
01446 792264
2 Barons Close House,
East Street, Llantwit Major
Orders now being taken for Christmas
Delivery service available
Merry Christmas to all our customers!

PORTHCAWL COMMUNITY GATHERS TO PAY SOLEMN TRIBUTE AT THE CENOTAPH

THE people of Porthcawl gathered on Remembrance Sunday, November 13 to honour the sacrifice that Servicemen and women have made in both past and current conflicts.

As you can see from Frank Shipton's evocative images, young and old both played important roles in the ceremony.



**PHOTOS
BY
FRANK
SHIPTON**



ON A BEAUTIFUL SUNLIT MORNING THE COUNTY BOROUGH HONOURS ITS HEROES

BRIDGEND county borough has a long tradition of providing Servicemen and women who serve in the Armed Forces, so Remembrance Sunday is a particularly poignant occasion.

Both Service and civilian communities paid their heartfelt tributes to the people who laid down their lives to guarantee the freedom that we enjoy.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail glyn.evans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



Your pull out and keep guide

Tel: 01446 700111 Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

VALE WINTER SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS



Miles Punter, Head of Visible Services at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, explains why this guide is important.

Over recent years the UK has suffered severe periods of cold weather with snow and ice causing major disruption. I wish to reassure our residents that we are prepared for such severe weather and have clear plans to help keep disruption of Council services to a minimum, using all our available resources.

Whilst no Council can guarantee the continuous delivery of its services during extreme winter weather, over recent years we have demonstrated an ability to provide our services when other councils have failed. If our services are going to be disrupted we will update you as soon as possible using our website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk in addition to local radio, social media and our Contact Centre.

Our Civil Protection Unit will co-ordinate our work to ensure that high priority services continue to be delivered. Our staff are ready to act and, regardless of their normal day-to-day roles, this large staff resource is able to be quickly targeted towards addressing any extreme weather events. In addition to our internal resources we work with local contractors and volunteers who are able to assist specifically with snow clearance.

Whilst we will do our best, depending on the severity of the weather, there may be some limitations to our normal services. I would ask that you contact us at the time if you have any service specific queries.

Please take care and keep safe during this winter.

**Miles Punter
Head of Visible Services**

Councillor Geoffrey Cox, Cabinet Member for Visible and Building Services and Councillor Paul Church, Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, with Council Officers.



Andrew Loosemore, Operational Manager for Highways and Engineering answers some of your questions, explaining how his department aims to keep you safe this winter:

Salting or gritting: what happens in the Vale?

We use 100% rock salt on our roads sourced from mines in Cheshire. Our salt bins can, however, contain a mixture of salt and grit or sand.

How is the decision to salt our roads made?

The decision to salt our roads is based on detailed weather forecasts from a specialist forecasting company. A decision is taken to salt the roads when the road (not air) temperature is forecast to fall below zero.

How accurate is this process?

The information is over 95% accurate.

How much salt do you stock?

We have 4,600 tonnes in stock, greatly exceeding the capacity of our salt barn (as pictured below). This is more salt than we used in total during last winter.

What roads do you salt?

We currently salt almost half of the Council's entire road network (no council applies salt to all its roads). We have a legal requirement to salt our roads and this requirement extends only to what is practical. We prioritise our treatment ensuring that major roads, industrial and commercial routes and main accesses to villages and towns are included.

Can I view the salt routes online?

Yes, enter your postcode in the 'Your Vale' section of our home page, view 'my nearest' and choose 'environment and planning' to find your nearest salt bin. Or select 'my maps' to see salting routes.

What salt spreading vehicles do you use during winter?

We have nine salting routes which each take two hours to complete. We have 10 purpose-built salt spreading vehicles available 24 hours a day and four 4x4 vehicles for use in snow and ice conditions. In addition we have snow blowers, towable salt spreaders, tractor mounted snowploughs, snow clearance equipment and pedestrian salt spreaders.

What about pavements?

We do not salt these, other than those in main shopping areas in extreme conditions. There is no law preventing you from clearing the pavements outside your home. Advice on this is detailed on the opposite page.



Check for regular updates at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Your pull out and keep guide

Tel: 01446 700111 Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

...in case of poor seasonal weather



What happens if the salt bin in my area needs refilling?

Please tell our Contact Centre. It will be replenished on the next scheduled round.

May I request a salt bin?

Yes. You should do this via our Contact Centre. We aim to conduct a site survey within 15 working days. Our officers will consider a range of factors in their assessment and you will be informed of their decision. Note: our supply of bins is limited and our assessment aims to ensure that they are only placed where the risk is high and many residents will benefit.

We currently have 280 salt bins for your use as a self help facility. Please remember that this salt is for roads and pavements only. It is not for use on private property. If you note any misuse of these bins you can report this to our Contact Centre.

Helpful Tips

- Always drive with caution, allocate more time for your journey or avoid going out in extreme conditions
- Carry a blanket, shovel, drink and a hazard sign in your vehicle
- Clear snow or ice early in the day
- Have ready your own salt (table or dishwasher salt is fine) to cover home paths before nightfall.
- Be neighbourly; clear snow for any elderly or disabled neighbours.

How to find out more

- Contact Centre: 01446 700111 (or for Leisure Centres: 01446 403000)
- Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
- Check our Twitter feed: @VOGCouncil
- Follow us on Facebook at: Vale of Glamorgan Life
- Visit us at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
- For those who are blind / partially sighted, we have a leaflet and audio advice detailing locations of facilities provided
- Information on clearing snow and ice from pavements can also be found at: www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI/Newsroom/DG_191868

Debbie Spargo, Principal Civil Protection Officer highlights how the Council will respond if the weather should take a turn for the worst:

During extreme weather we focus and prioritise resources to cover our critical services using teams drawn from right across the Council.



Day Centres

This service may be subject to limitations; we will try to contact our clients at home and provide visiting support and advice where possible.

Home Care (Domiciliary)

Home care services provided by and funded through us will have the support of our home care team. If funded providers require our help to meet the care needs of vulnerable users we will do our best to support them.

Residential Homes

All our care homes will be fully operational, with flexible staff working arrangements to ensure residents are well looked after.

Meals on Wheels - we'll try and deliver

This is classed as a priority; we will do our best to deliver meals on wheels to our clients. If alternative arrangements have to be made we will let you, your family or your carer know.

Schools

We have introduced a new text messaging system so that schools can tell our Contact Centre whether they are 'open', 'open staff only', 'open exams only' or 'closed'. This will be placed on our website and Twitter account as soon as possible.

Waste Management

Every effort will be made to collect your recycling and waste as usual. However your safety and that of our crew is paramount. We will try and let you know any changes to services or Civic Amenity Site opening times as quickly as we can. Additional staff and vehicles will work when possible.

Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies

We aim to make sure our Registrars attend every event to ensure your special day goes ahead.

Registration of Births and Deaths

There may be some disruption, with opening times changing. We advise you contact the Register Office before attending. (Remember, by law a birth must be registered within 42 days).



Check for regular updates at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Remembering not only those who died but also the families they left behind...

IN today's GEM you will see photographs of Remembrance parades held across the county borough last weekend.

We tend to see Remembrance Day as part of a reflection of those who died during the first and Second World Wars. The larger numbers attending services, also reflect a support for those who fought and are fighting in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya.

Remembrance Day must also be for those who also fought, whether in the blue light brigades of fire, police and ambulance. The Home Guard, the munitions workers, medical staff, ARP workers, land and lumber girls and the merchant seamen, more of whom died than all three military services combined.

The same is true of today's wars. We could not have fought in Libya if armaments workers had not worked 24 hour shifts to provide the munitions.

A large percentage of the medical staff serving in field hospitals are civilians or reservists. Many of the maintenance staff serving and being killed alongside our armed forces are civilians.

We owe them all a huge debt of gratitude. To mark Remembrance Day, the House of Commons devoted an afternoon to a debate about Armed Forces Personnel.

For MPs who have recently served in the Armed Forces, it was a chance to remember colleagues they had lost, while for those of us with an interest in defence and security, it was the opportunity to pay tribute to the people who put their lives on the

line to protect us and highlight some of the issues they are facing.

Operation Ellamy, the UK's contribution to the operations over Libya featured highly in the debate. RAF and Navy pilots played a vital role in this and to them we owe a debt of thanks. They were admired by others for their professionalism.

Thankfully, there were no military deaths and with their brave contribution, many civilian deaths were avoided.

Against the background of operations over Libya and our continuing commitment in Afghanistan, the Government has finally enshrined the Armed Forces covenant into law. I hope that this significant step will not turn out to be an exercise full of promises that lack real commitment.

Morale amongst our Armed Forces personnel and their families is at an all-time low, due to the ongoing process of redundancies, changes to allowances and for some having to endure substantial accommodation. The Armed Forces Covenant will prove a stern test for how true the commitment of this and future Governments is.

As well as keeping a critical eye on what the Government is doing in relation to our Armed Forces personnel, the debate offered the chance to congratulate the Government for its decision to finally allow veterans of the Malaya and Borneo campaign to not just accept the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal, but finally to be allowed to wear it in time for Remembrance Sunday.

The medal, awarded by the Malaysian Government in 2004, fell foul of an archaic set of rules which allowed veterans to accept it, but not

wear it.

This change of heart is very welcome. The honours and decorations committee is the guardian of the rules governing medals and this is now set to be reviewed. For too long, this rather shadowy and unaccountable committee has failed to respond to veterans' groups, hiding behind the rules they seek to implement. Any future committee should be made accountable to Parliament. I hope Ministers will learn the lessons from the experience of the PJM veterans.

Many contributions to the debate also focused on the mental and physical impact of service. As a Member of the Defence Select Committee, we have undertaken an inquiry into military casualties and how we care for them. Charities such as Combat Stress and Help for Heroes, among many others do essential work to help serving and former Armed Forces personnel with physical injuries and mental health problems linked to their service.

After almost a decade and a half of war in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan we are aware that numbers of traumatised and psychologically damaged military and ex-military personnel will grow. American studies show that 1/3rd of their Vietnam veterans needed psychological care, while one in five soldiers suffered combat induced psychological problems post Iraq.

If, as seems likely, greater emphasis is put on developing reserve forces, it is essential that there are the services to match. Research has shown that reserve forces are far more susceptible to psychological problems stemming from their service, partly because once they return to civilian life, they do

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.



not have the support network provided by a regiment or home base. Our commitment to providing care for those who have life-changing injuries or who many years down the line may suffer from psychological problems such as PTSD will have to be sustained for many years to come.

At the same time, while the level of public awareness about these problems is, we need to be careful to avoid compassion fatigue.

At a time when despicable criminal elements are desecrating war memorials to sell the copper and bronze, we cannot ignore the fact that a few years from now the public memory of our operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Falklands will start to fade, funding for services must not be allowed to fade too.

Remembrance Day should honour the bravery of everyone who has fought for Britain. We should honour the skill, courage, and commitment to their comrades, country and their communities.

As a community we must show the same devotion to looking after the families of those who serve in our name: whether it is the teacher watching for the child, upset because a parent is away; a neighbour popping in for a coffee with the family left behind; or remembering that the elderly man or woman in the street will almost certainly have served in a way that should be respected and remembered.

Maesteg U3A
THE members of the U3A would thank the speakers from Bridgend CBC Rhiannon Kinsley and Mark Harris for their excellent presentation on the regeneration of Maesteg town centre at their October meeting.

The next meeting is in Central church hall on Tuesday, November 22 at 2.30pm, and the guest speaker will be Beth Butler, vice chairperson of the Third Age Trust. Beth's talk is titled 'If it's not fun it's not the U3A'.

Young singer

THE Bridgend Young Singer competition organised by the Maesteg 'Gleemen', male voice choir and sponsored by Dunraven Windows, held auditions at Carmel, Bethesda Chapel, Commercial Street, Maesteg on November 5 for the junior and senior sections of the competition.

Competitors again displayed a high standard, and adjudicators had a great deal to deliberate over before a decision was made on youngsters who will be eligible to enter the finals of the competition, which will be held in Maesteg town hall on January 28, 2012.

CANDLE SERVICE

THE annual candle service will be held at All Saints Church, Porthcawl, on December 4 at 4pm, in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Light a candle for a loved one and listen to the Myndyd Cynffig Junior School choir and Sounds Familiar choir, who are great supporters in the fight against cancer.

The junior section competitors (alphabetical listing): Lauren Coates (Bryntirion comprehensive school); Connie Osgood-Fisher (Archbishop McGrath RC Comprehensive school); Emily Hunt (Bryntirion Comprehensive school); Amy Leigh Thomas (Maesteg Comprehensive school).

Senior section:

Sophie Howe (Porthcawl Comprehensive school); Harmony Miller (Porthcawl Comprehensive school); Sebastian Waters (Archbishop McGrath RC Comprehensive school).

Reserve: Megan Eleri Griffiths (Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari).

The members of the Maesteg 'Gleemen' would like to thank each accompanist, who gave up their time to support the competitors, namely Ryan Wood, Paul Greenway and Suzanne Hodges.

They also express their gratitude to the Minister Reverend Alwyn Evans, the Deacons and members of the chapel for the use of the facilities.

To date the competitors aged 19-26 from September 1 who will appear in the auditions held in Maesteg town hall on November 26 :

Joy Cornock (soprano) from Pembrokeshire; Claire Delaney (lyric soprano) from

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Bridgend: Eirlys Myfanwy Davies (mezzo soprano) from Llanelli; Menna Cazel Davies (soprano) from Church Village; Rosanne Davies (soprano) from Pontcanna, Cardiff; Llio Evans (soprano) from Cardiff; Gerald Rhys Jones counter tenor) from Cemaes, Machynlleth, Powys; Meilir Jones (baritone) from Llangeini, Anglesey; Bethan Landford (mezzo soprano) from Much Wenlock, Shropshire; Joshua Mills (tenor) from Bryncoch, Neath; Jessica Robinson (mezzo soprano) from Llandissilio, Pembrokeshire.

For an application form e-mail Alun Hodges at Alun 74@talktalk.net

Mother's Union

THE next meeting of this organisation based in St Bride's church, Llansantffraid is on November 22 where the speaker will be Raye Saunders of the Diocesan mother's union as part of the ninety years celebrations.

The Christmas dinner is being held on December 6, please contact Raema if you would like to join in the fun.

Farewell

MEMBERS of the Parish of Llansantffraid, Betws and Aberkenfig wish a happy retirement

to Rev Gaynor Lowans, who will be conducting her last services in the parish on Sunday, November 20, at St Bride's church, Llansantffraid at 10am and St John's church, Aberkenfig at 6pm. Everyone is welcome.

Chocoholics
CÔR Meibion Cwm Garw (Garw Valley male voice choir), which supports charitable and community organisations, will be performing along with other choirs in St David's Hall, Cardiff on Saturday, November 19 to help raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Foodbank

OGMORE Vale primary school headteacher Mrs J Morgan has received a letter of thanks from the Bridgend Foodbank, for donations of food following its harvest festival service.

The foodbank is a store where food donated by the community is banked, and supplied to individuals, couples and families in crisis situations. During October, the foodbank supplied food to 55 children and 175 adults, and it is expecting these numbers to significantly rise over the winter months.

There is a collection point for food and money in Sainsbury's store, at Sarn.

Tondu school

The children's choir will also be singing throughout the day at

TONDU Primary School is arranging another Bags2school collection of clothes and textiles to raise money for school funds; all filled bags to be in school on or before November 25.

Children's choir
ON Friday, November 25 at 7pm, Maesteg children's choir will be performing at the Salvation Army's donations of toys for needy children charity concert, at Maesteg comprehensive school.

There will be choral music, too, from the Noteworthy mixed voice choir, with Maesteg Salvation Army Band. Garth primary school will be putting on a nativity play and two local harpists, Benjamin and Nathan Isaacs, will be showing their skills in playing these instruments.

The choir started with Vicar of Dibley's version of Howard Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd', then 'Nella Fantasia' by Enio Morricone, Jeffrey Howard's 'Buellt' finishing with Eric Jones's

Children's choir

First on stage was the Briton Ferry silver band under its musical director Dr Christian Jenkins, who played the 'Royal British Legion March' written by Thomas Bidgood in 1912.

Next on stage was the wonderful Noteworthy mixed voice choir of around 25 members under musical director Ryan Wood, assisted by accompanist Rhian Jenkins.

The choir started with Vicar of Dibley's version of Howard Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd', then 'Nella Fantasia' by Enio Morricone, Jeffrey Howard's 'Buellt' finishing with 'You Raise me up'.

The silver band then completed the first half before the interval with

Chocoholics

The show was a great success, and they were impressed with the professionalism and the quality of the singing. Thank you, Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society, for a very enjoyable evening.

Last Saturday, I went to the Remembrance Day concert in the same venue, and we were greeted with the melodic music on the harp by teenage harpist, Sian Rushforth.

First on stage was the Briton Ferry silver band under its musical director Dr Christian Jenkins, who played the 'Royal British Legion March' written by Thomas Bidgood in 1912.

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VIP dental centre

invite you to their

OPEN DAY

Thursday 24th November 2.00 - 6.30pm

Meet the new team at VIP dental centre

**WIN
a family day out
for 4 in our
FREE PRIZE DRAW**



Back row (left to right):
Susan Morgan, Cara Williams, Rebekah Nutty and
Nerys Griffiths. Seated: Eifion Roberts and Colin Rees.

A NEW team is in place at the VIP dental centre in Cowbridge, and on Thursday, November 24, they are throwing open their doors between 2pm and 6.30pm and inviting existing and prospective patients to meet them.

The practice has now expanded, taking over the adjacent premises, and the extra space has enabled the team to increase the range of services on offer.

They also took the opportunity to install a ramp

which has given full disabled access - solving a common problem for businesses in Cowbridge's main thoroughfare.

Visitors to the open day will automatically be entered into a raffle, and the prize is a ticket for a family of four to this year's pantomime in the New Theatre in Cardiff, *Robinson Crusoe*, with Christopher Biggins as the Dame.

VIP spokeswoman Susan Morgan said: "Now that the alterations are all completed, we are launching a new private dental scheme, which is flexible and affordable.

"We are offering the same

level of treatment that people associate with private, but which is 15 per cent cheaper than traditional schemes."

People can join the scheme for a basic outlay of 35p per day, with worldwide dental insurance included.

Susan said: "At the open day, a series of experts and laboratory technicians who work with the team will be on hand to give advice and answer questions on the advanced dental treatments that are available.

"Everyone is welcome on the day and it will be an opportunity to find out more about what modern dentistry can offer."

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and find out
about our
Scheme**

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or visit:

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**'The
branch
belongs
to you'
members
told**

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

AT the monthly meeting on November 10, president Meryl James ably took up her new position and pointed out to members that the institute was theirs – not the committee's or the county's.

Christman (or new year) lunch was discussed and Southerndown Golf Club seemed a popular choice.

An outing was mentioned for next year, possibly to Denman College. Speakers will probably be alternated with home grown entertainment. Immediate event will be the carol service on December 14 at Penllynne.

The levels of bravery, devotion, patience, expertise, of our voluntary services never fail to

impress and the Western Beacons Mountain Rescue service is no exception.

Nick Collins, a volunteer of this team, gave an enlightening talk, with a DVD show about the history, day to day involvement, training and costs of this worthy charity.

The local branch of the service is based at Sarn and was formed in 1933 as the Bridgend Mountain Rescue. The area covered stretches from Penarth to Aberaeron, the largest in the country. Volunteers are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and rely entirely on the support and generosity of the public.

This is truly a noble charity, meriting the utmost support.

The next meeting is on December 8 at St Brides Major church hall at 7.15pm – Christmas party night!

Vouchers bring in gifts for pupils



TWO Vale primary schools and a nursery were presented with equipment and gifts from their local Tesco store in Culverhouse Cross.

Vale MP Alun Cairns handed the gifts to staff and children from Gwenfro C/W and St Nicholas C/W Primary Schools and the Culverhouse Day Nursery on behalf of Tesco store deputy manager David Davies.

The schools collected thousands of Tesco vouchers, which enabled them to select a mixture of IT, sports and classroom equipment.



Tesco has run its vouchers for schools and clubs scheme since 2009, and the local

Culverhouse superstore regularly helps raise money for nominated charities.

Last year, the store raised £7,500 for Clic Sargent and aim to raise a significant amount for this year's nominated charity – the Alzheimer's Society.

News from Penarth and District Ramblers

Stepping into the local shoot!

GERAINT and his tri-coloured sheepdog Patch recently began a series of winter walks around the Wenvoe area, all of which begin from the War Memorial next to the village pub.

The group of five headed out past the 12th century village church dedicated to St Mary, the group took paths through houses to emerge into the fields above the Wenvoe garden centre, which led them to Burdonshill.

Entering part of the Wenvoe golf course, the group edged along the boundary to follow the footpath down hill.

Unfortunately, the group walked straight into the middle of the local shoot and had to wait until it was safe to continue.

After walking the length of the northern edge of the Goldsland Wood, the group crossed fields and eventually arrived at the long cairn at St Lythans. This Neolithic chambered tomb is also known as Gwyl-y-Filiaist, or the 'greyhound bitches kennel' as apparently it was once used as an animal shelter during the 1800s.

Circumnavigating the top end of the Goldsland Wood, it was interesting to note that the remains of seven Neolithic humans were excavated from a cave that stood between the wood and the burial chamber, together with pottery and flint blades.

Then turning south with views out towards the Bristol Channel, the group headed through sheep-filled fields in the Goldsland Valley and crossing the bridge over the Goldsland Brook climbed gently to New Wallace Farm.

They strolled along the lane that runs through the Wenvoe golf course which was founded in 1936 around Wenvoe Castle, a mansion house that was the home of Hugh Jenner the club's first president, before returning back to Wenvoe village.

On November 19, meet at 9am at the Wenvoe War Memorial for a four-mile easy/moderate walk taking in the Salmon Leaps at Cwrt yr Ala; contact Geraint on 02920 2051 5278.

Apologies are sent because the planned walks in the programme for both November 20 and 22 have been cancelled.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 219102. JOY STRANGWARD

Arrests after police 'swab' town revellers

SOUTH WALES police report that two men were arrested concerning possession of drugs during a pre-planned drugs operation in Porthcawl after officers swabbed the hands of those attending various pubs and clubs in the town centre on Saturday night.

A total of 97 tests were carried out, six of which were positive which resulted in two arrests for possession of drugs.

There were a further two arrests concerning public order offences during the operation and one Section 27

Direction to Leave Notice issued. Sergeant Dave Williams of the Porthcawl Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "A high visibility multi-agency operation was conducted in Porthcawl town centre on Saturday night as part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring it is a safe and secure place to socialise."

"A drugs itemiser was utilised during the operation which required anyone entering some pubs and clubs to provide a hand swab for analysis."

The operation also saw officers attend numerous licensed premises in the town to ensure licensing conditions are being complied with.

'Play Aloud' at Halloween



PICTURED: Local children at the 'Play Aloud' Halloween party in the Murchfield Community Centre.



CHILDREN in Dinas Powys enjoyed a Halloween party at the Murchfield Community Centre in 'Play Aloud' style – a project set up this summer with a £1m Big Lottery grant, to give children an alternative to TV and computer games with free play activities.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PORTHCAWL POPPY APPEAL CONCERT SUCCESS

A CONCERT was held again this year in All Saints Church, Porthcawl, courtesy of the Rector, wardens and parishioners, to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal.

Following a trumpet fanfare by Robert Young, the Royal British Legion Standard and the Book of Remembrance were paraded in silence down the church aisle, carried respectively by standard bearer Ray Street and David Philpott, MBE.

They were accompanied by an escort to the altar, where the standard and book were presented to the Rector, Canon Philip Masson.

Following the singing of *Hen Wlad fy Nhadau*, the Rector, who is also Chaplain to the Royal British Legion's Porthcawl branch, in his opening address, extended a warm welcome to all those present.

The programme included performances by the parish handbell ringers, Sounds Familiar, the Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir, the Mid Glamorgan Accordion Band and children of Aelwyd yr Urdd Porthcawl, who all gave their services voluntarily.

The chairman of the Royal British Legion's Porthcawl branch, Ruth Birch, gave her remarks and thanks during the course of the concert. The latter concluded with the Last Post, Exhortation, Reveille and Kohima Epitaph, after which the Royal British Legion Standard and Book of Remembrance were paraded back down the aisle, to the singing of 'Mansions of the Lord' by Sounds Familiar.

The proceeds from the concert realised the fantastic sum of £636 for the Poppy Appeal. Many thanks to all who took part and ensured its success.



LEFT:
The Kenfig Hill
Male Voice Choir.
RIGHT:
The Trumpet Fanfare,
the Last Post and
Reveille were played
by Robert Young.



Words and Images by
KEITH E MORGAN



ABOVE: The Royal British Legion's
Porthcawl branch chairman, Ruth Birch.



ABOVE: Sounds Familiar.



ABOVE: The Royal British Legion Standard and Book of Remembrance being returned at the end of the concert.



ABOVE: The Mid Glamorgan
Accordion Band.



The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun. Barbara Stubbs, and her Consort, Bill Stubbs, being welcomed to All Saints Church, by the Rector, Canon Philip Masson, and Legion branch chairman, Ruth Birch.



Mr John Berry, Secretary of the Legion's Porthcawl branch, welcoming the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun. Barbara Stubbs, and her consort, Bill Stubbs, to the concert together with branch president, Lt Col Stephen Rock, TD, and chairman, Ruth Birch.



*Preparing to Parade the Royal British Legion Standard
and the Book of Remembrance.*

BRIDGEND REMEMBERED THEM

(See report and more pictures on page 23)



Some ghostly goings on at Ogmore castle!

ESTABLISHED by Williams de Londres in 1116, the first castle on the site at Ogmore was constructed using earth and timber.

This was around the time of the Norman invasion, and eventually the castle and additional keep were built using stone for strength against enemy attack.

The inner ward is still visible, as well as the great tower, which was built by William's son Maurice de Londres, after his father death in 1126.

It was likely to have been a spectacular sight as it spanned three stories with a fireplace on the ground floor. Staircases for the first floor were added for apartments to accommodate the Lord and his family.

Across from the main castle another building was added during the 12th Century, although only ruins of the castle remain today.

The de Londres family still owned the castle during the 13th Century and they added more new buildings to the site where the foundations are still visible.

Buildings which probably stood there include a gatehouse and a great hall. Indications of an original drawbridge are still evident beside the gate passage.

However, the castle is unlikely to have figured in any substantial battles.

Other significant names relating to the castle include Payn de Chaworth,

Lord of Kidwelly and his heiress Matilda who married Henry, Earl of Lancaster in 1298.

Ogmore castle then became part of the Duchy of Lancaster and served as a courthouse during the 14th Century.

The ghostly image of a man has been seen on many occasions by unsuspecting visitors, gliding across the stepping stones seemingly looking for hidden treasure.

Why would this lifelike gentleman want to return to the place where he failed in his quest to seek his fortune in another world now beyond his grasp?

The spectral image of a bearded man has been identified roaming around the castle grounds as if lost in time. Could this frightful figure be that of a poacher executed on the land many years ago, reluctant to leave the place where he met his end?

Another phantom entity has been seen crossing the water displaying himself as a soldier.

Could this gallant spirit be guarding someone during his time on the earth's plane, or just a confused spirit abandoned in an environment that he would no longer recognise?

The serene face of a little girl has been spotted at the window of the castle turret emulating the feeling of sadness.

Could this sad image be a reflection of the conditions of our distant past? the mysteries go on..

HAYLEY WILLIAMS



The president of the Rotary Club of Bridgend, Roger Grannum, with pupils Daniel Pugh-Bevan, who played the organ and came third; Lucy Millership, bassoon (second) and Sophie Howe, (piano, first) and president elect Ken Roberts.

Musical delights in Rotary Clubs' young musician competition

THE Rotary Clubs of Bridgend and Porthcawl held their joint Young Musician competition on November 9, at All Saint's Church Porthcawl.

Seven local youngsters took part in the competition, playing instruments that included piano, bassoon, violin, organ, clarinet and even the tuba!

The audience were treated to music by Elgar, Bartok, Bach and Beethoven through to Benny Goodman and Waller.

The judges for the competition were, John Beddoe, Raymond Driscoll and John Foley, all accomplished music specialists, with a great deal of experience in teaching and in orchestral and ensemble playing. Chairman

of the judges John Beddoe commented that: "It was marvellous to see the wonderful talent that we have in our schools; every participant was a winner".

After much deliberation, the first prize was awarded to Sophie Howe, a pianist from Porthcawl Comprehensive school, who played a piece by Clementi and also 'The Alligator Crawl' by Waller.

The second prizewinner was Lucy Millership, a bassoonist, and third prize was won by Daniel Pugh-Bevan who played the church organ.

Both Lucy and Daniel also attend the Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Sophie and Lucy will now compete in the Rotary District 1150 Area 7 Finals on December 7 in Swansea.



WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

Mistletoe Ball

THE British Heart Foundation Cymru is holding a Christmas Ball, The Mistletoe Ball, on Saturday, November 26 (7pm – 1am) at St David's Hotel and Spa. Remaining tables are £350 for 10, which includes three-course dinner, reception, singer and live band. For more information, contact Sharon Owen on 02920 382408.

Christmas toy sale

NEW and nearly new children's clothes, toys, books and games for sale on Saturday, November 26, 11am–2pm at Tabernacle Welsh Independent Chapel, Holton Road, Barry.

Opening conducted by Sound of Music star Connie Fisher.

Entrance £1. All proceeds to the Noah's Ark Appeal.

Bargain gifts

BARGAIN gifts go on sale this Saturday (November 19) in the Christmas bazaar at St Mary's church, Holton Road, Barry at 11am; admission 50p, children admitted free.

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's charity coffee morning is at the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry on November 22, 10.30am to 12 noon and will be in aid of the Llamau charity.

Festive crafts

ON November 23 at 6.30pm, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School will be opening its doors to the public for their Christmas fayre.

As part of the year-10 students' Welsh Baccalaureate Enterprise, they have been busy cre-

ating everything for the perfect Christmas, from festive mugs and wine glasses to Christmas decorations and presents.

This year, there will be a special visit from Santa and the opportunity to have photos with him in the grotto.

School fair

ALL Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Cwm Talwg, are holding their Christmas fair at 3.30pm on Friday, November 25. Gift and craft stalls, raffles and Father Christmas in his grotto.

Cadoc surgery

CADOC Ward councillors, Anne Moore, Fred Johnson and Neil Moore, will be holding a surgery at Cadoc House on Saturday, November 26 from 10.30am-11.30am. Please use Belle Vue Terrace entrance.

Art Society exhibition

COWBRIDGE Art Society's winter exhibition is on at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, from now until December 9 (open 9am–4pm) on November 24, the society will hold its annual dinner at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Christmas market

BRITISH Heart Foundation Cymru will be holding a Christmas market on December 10 at the Cowbridge Town Hall from 11am until 3pm.

Stalls include Christmas gifts and ideas, raffle, refreshments, cakes, Jamie at Home, tombola; plus Santa in his grotto. For more information, contact Sharon Owen on 02920 382408.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN?

6th Barry Sea Scouts Group – Old St Nicholas Church, St Nicholas Road, Barry – Repair and replacement of part of roof. Repair boundary wall. Mr A Powell – 5 Coleridge Crescent, Barry – Garage conversion.

Miss Lyndsay Jenkins – Church Cottage, Llangan – Side and rear extensions.

Mr Rukon Ali – 18 Solent Road, Barry – Proposed ground floor extension to form kitchen/study. Proposed first floor extension to form additional bedrooms and bathroom.

Mrs Amanda Gee – Trelawn, 279 Barry Road, Barry – Single storey rear extension. Headlands School – 2 St Augustines Road, Penarth – Retention of school cycle training track and log shelter.

Mr Chris Davey – 160 Windsor Road, Penarth – change of use of existing three-storey plus basement end of terrace house into four self-contained flats and single storey rear extension.

Mr Richard Murphy – Efail y Roper, Trerhyngyll – construction of conservatory to north elevation first floor extension to provide additional bedroom. Dr D Southgate and Dr J Morgan – The Owls House, West Street, Llantwit Major – Remove cypress.

Wenvoe Community Council – Village Green, Old Port Road, Wenvoe – Remove ash tree.

Mr Simon Lysdon – 44 Greenfield Avenue, Dinas Powys – Two storey rear extension.

Mrs Lauren Powell – 194 Laverton Road, Penarth – Replace wooden sash windows with UPVC sash windows in

First floor extension to existing dwelling to include new ensuite bathroom.

Fitz Project Management – 21 Cardiff Road, Barry – Self contained flat.

Mr Dafydd Rhodri Davies – Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major – To extend the existing steel frame portal and to install solar panels on its roof and existing shed roofs on the south/south west facing elevations, facing away from homes, highways, footpaths.

Mr Owain Williams – Redundant parcel of land adjacent to Fir Cottage, Llantwit Road, St Athan – Proposed detached cottage with integral garage.

Mr and Mrs Rebecca Hooper – 102 Stanwell Road, Penarth – Remove cypress.

Mr Simon Lysdon – 44 Greenfield Avenue, Dinas Powys – Two storey rear extension.

Mr and Mrs Rebecca Hooper – 102 Stanwell Road, Penarth – Replace wooden sash windows with UPVC sash windows in

front of house. Dr Richard Irons – Rose Cottage, Heol y Mynydd, Southerndown – Demolish existing single storey annex, alterations and construction of new two storey extension and dormer windows.

Fitz Project Management – Three Horseshoes Inn, Moulton – The installation of 16 solar panels on the south facing roof of The Three Horseshoes Inn, Moulton.

Mr John Owen – 22 Wick Road, Ewenny – First floor extension.

Ms Sally Bagstaff – 44 Llamaeas Road, Llantwit Major – Proposed single storey rear extension.

Mr Michael Jones – 16a/17 Greenwood Street, Barry – Change of use to B2 use class.

Mr Ian Shumack – 3 Whittan

Close, Rhoose – Replacement garage with 'workshop' related to house.

E-tricity Limited – Court Farm, Penllyn, Cowbridge – Installation and operation of a solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment with a maximum array height of 2.6m and a maximum installed ed capacity of 50kW.

Mrs Jill Collings – 8 Heol y Fro, Llantwit Major – Single storey side and rear extension.

Mrs Pugh – Mintfield, Burial Lane, Llantwit Major – 30 per cent reduction to sycamore, fell laburnum, 30 per cent reduction to large cherry, 30 per cent reduction to small cherry and fell cedar.

Mr Scott Croll – Culver, Llancarfan – First floor side extension above existing garage/bedroom annexe, single

storey rear infill extension, internal re-arrangements and minor external works.

Ms Julie Breed – 2 Woodlands Close, Cowbridge – Single storey side extension.

H X Ruk 3 (South) Ltd – Llandough Trading Estate, Cardiff Road, Llandough – Signage.

Mrs Adrienne Leijerstam – Llantrithyd Deer Park, Bonvilston – First floor conversion of roof space to bedroom and en suite.

Miss Emma Hancock – Bassett Park, Holton Road, Barry – Installation of user operated floodlighting to multi court facility.

Cooke and Arkwright – Windsor Court, The Esplanade, Penarth – Works to trees.

174 Holton Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4HN

GROVE ESTATES



BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY

- Well presented 5 bedroom semi-detached property
- Driveway to front for approx 2-3 cars
- Two reception rooms
- Double glazed & gas central heating
- Enclosed rear garden
- Offered freehold with no chain

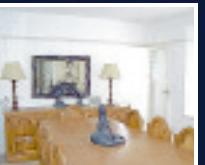
£179,950



WINSTON ROAD, BARRY

- 3 bedroom semi-detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Driveway to front
- Front & rear gardens
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£120,000



KINGSLAND CRESCENT, BARRY

- Rarely available 5 double bedroom semi-detached in central location
- Many restored period features
- Gas central heating & partial timber double glazing
- Driveway
- Views over the Bristol channel to the rear

£199,950



GREENLAWNS, BARRY

- Immaculately presented 3 bedroom semi-detached property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Viewing highly recommended
- Good size front & rear gardens

£129,950



MOREL STREET, BARRY

- A well presented 3 bedroom property in a popular location of Barry
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Some original features remain
- Viewing highly recommended

£105,000



BRYN AWEL, BARRY

- 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol Channel

£244,950



BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY

- A generously sized 2 double bedroom ground floor flat
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Communal front & rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- No ongoing chain

£90,000



MEADOWVALE, BARRY

- Immaculately presented 3 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage with parking for 3-4 cars
- 3 reception rooms
- Set in spacious corner plot

£190,000



JEWEL STREET, BARRY

- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Good sized rear garden
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£125,000



HOLLAND WAY, BARRY

- 3 bedroom mid terrace property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Front and rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£99,950



PARK AVENUE, BARRY

- Spacious 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Far reaching views over Bristol Channel
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£174,950



DOCKVIEW ROAD, BARRY

- 4 Bedroom semi-detached property in popular location
- Generously sized rooms set over 3 floors
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Far reaching views over Barry Docks
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£127,500



BELL STREET, BARRY

- 3 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Ideal as investment or 1st time purchase
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£95,000



MORGAN STREET, BARRY

- Well presented 2 bedroom property in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Located close to local amenities & transport links

£104,950



WALKER ROAD, BARRY

- Well presented 3 Bedroom semi-detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Conservatory
- Far reaching views out toward the Bristol channel

£130,000



LLAN FARM, BARRY

- An extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Landscape front & rear gardens set on approx 1/3 of an acre
- Set in quiet semi-rural location
- Off road parking with double garage
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Offered freehold

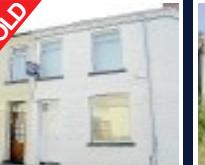
£299,000



FARFORD STREET, BARRY

- 3 bedroom mid terrace property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Located close to local amenities
- Ideal investment of first time purchase
- Offered freehold & no chain

£90,000



HEOL Y NANT, BARRY

- Single garage
- No amenities
- In need of upgrading
- Ideal for use as storage unit
- Secure cul-de-sac location

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OFTT

Handbell ringers swing into action at Porthcawl



The Parish Handbell Ringers rehearsing their Christmas Carol Programme in St. John's Church, Newton.

by KEITH E MORGAN

THE Parish Handbell Ringers are busy rehearsing ready for their Christmas carol programme.

If their rendering of 'Silent Night' at their recent rehearsal is anything to go by, it will be well worth attending one of their many festive displays.

The first of these will be on November 23 when they will be entertaining the sixth form of the Porthcawl Comprehensive School in the school hall.

Ringers are then taking part in the Christmas carols concert at the Grand Pavilion on November 28. On December 11 at 6pm, they are at St Colman's Church, Cefn Cribwr.

The following day, December 12, they are giving a private performance to the resi-

dents of Stoneleigh Court. The Ringers will also be entertaining at Parc Prison, Bridgend.

Rev Marja Flipse from Holland, who joined the Parish of Porthcawl, Newton and Nottage as a Curate last year, has made a musical niche for herself in the town.

Not only is the Rev



Rev Marja Flipse with her parents in St John's Church, Newton.

Bryncethin run in tries at Tonyrefail

**Tonyrefail under-11s 7
Bryncethin under-11s 35**

A CRISP morning saw Bryncethin travel with a large squad.

Yet again the coaches started with a mixture to give the newer members of the squad further experience.

The match started slowly with the Bryncethin youngsters finding it difficult to adapt to the interpretations of the referee.

To their credit, though, they started to go through the phases and this led to the opening try for Jack Thomas.

The home team tried to apply pressure but the Bryncethin defence held up well with Scott Murrell, Daniel Osarigie and Jak Thomas all showing excellent technique.

The second and third tries were again a result of the ball going through the hands.

New boy Luke Lockyer scored his first try for Bryncethin following good work by Tobias Hunt and Tomas Jones.

Josh Napper went over in the corner following a fluid move to score the final try of the first half.

A number of changes saw Bryncethin struggle in the early stages of the second half and Tonyrefail took advantage to score a converted try.

As the game progressed the superior power of Bryncethin took over, with Rhys

Davies, Aaron Thomas and Scott Ryall all making good ground.

From a penalty Finlay Mullens fed Tobias Hunt, who powered through a number of challenges to go over for a score and, in a carbon copy, Joshua Thomas scored the fifth try near the end.

All the scores were converted by Jack Thomas.

The coaches wish to convey their thanks to the players for their attitude towards the squad rotation as they strive to give all the boys some game time.

It's fantastic to see the squad going from strength to strength and with the long winter months ahead there will be plenty of opportunities for all the players to shine.

Try scorers: Jack Thomas, Luke Lockyer, Josh Napper, Tobias Hunt and Joshua Thomas.

Man of the match: All over defensive work, excellent line play and a try - Tobias Hunt.

Squad: Daniel Osarigie, Aaron Thomas, Luke Thomas, Scott Ryall, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Rhys Davies, Finlay Mullens, Tomas Jones, Scott Murrell, Morgan Rimron, Joshua Thomas, Luke Lockyer, Dylan Evans, Jak Thomas, Evan Wyatt and Tobias Hunt.

RH

Athletic lose out in derby encounter

**TONDU
BRIDGEND ATHLETIC**

26

14

LOCAL derbies are often decided by hunger and desire – which team wants it the most.

This game was no different. Tondu came out with a game plan to play at pace and with a very physical approach – the Athletic, in contrast, were leaden-footed, often one-dimensional in their game and certainly lacked the physicality needed in a local derby.

Last season's climb to third place in the Swalec league was built around an excellent defence – unfortunately, this season a number of players are letting their colleagues down in this department.

Tondu came out with all guns blazing, barely allowing the Athletic to get their hands on the ball in the first five minutes. The pressure told with the Athletic conceding a penalty, which was converted by full-back Dean Thomas.

The Athletic also suffered a blow losing prop Dan Suter with a damaged nose. Eventually, the Athletic did get into the game and debutant outside-half Josh Davies scythed through the home defence from halfway. The move broke down



Kyle Galtry.



Photos by KERRY FOTHERGILL.

Stuart Nation with Rhys Jones in support.

five metres short of the The Athletic suffered a second injury blow when their September player of the month and leading try scorer Rhys Jones, was forced off with what looked a serious ankle injury. They were also forced to play the last 10 minutes of the half with hooker Stuart Nation in the sin bin. Tondu piled on the pressure in this period, but were unable to again breach the Athletic defence.

Tondu came back at the Athletic and a second Dean Thomas penalty reduced the home side deficit to 7-6. Five minutes later, Tondu spurned a kickable penalty and ran the ball. The move broke down, but from a resultant scrum they moved the ball wide for lock Stephen Bevan to pop on the wing and dive over in the corner to put Tondu ahead at 11-7.

The Athletic kicked off the second half with a kick down the middle of the field to the Tondu 22. A ruck formed and Tondu moved the ball wide. A missed tackle allowed full-back Dean Thomas to race away.

Interpassing with scrum-half Joe Heatley led to an excellent try for Heatley to give the home side daylight on the scoreboard with a 16-7 lead. This soon became 19-7 with a third Thomas penalty.

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The Athletic pack was reduced to pick and go tactics. They failed to quickly move the ball from rucks and mauls, giving the home side plenty of time to organise their defence.

The Ath supporters were longing to see the old style interchange of passes and offloads from tackles and high tempo play normally associated with the Athletic. When the ball was moved wide, it was ponderous and easily snuffed out by the home side.

It was no surprise when Tondu extended their lead with a high tempo move, finished off by wing Mark Roberts and converted by Thomas to put his side 26-7 ahead.

Tondu were now looking for a bonus point try. They attempted a long pass on halfway which the alert Aled Thomas intercepted to run in



Stuart Morris.

unopposed for his second try. Morris converted.

Both sides were looking to finish the game with a bonus point – but the game stagnated in the middle of the park and Tondu were well worth their win.

For the Athletic, hooker Stuart Nation, flanker Kyle Galtry and Rod Apsec were the pick of the pack. Scrum-half Aled Thomas was a livewire in attack, but must get his backline moving with quicker distribution from loose play.

The Athletic have a big squad, reflected in the 35 players picked so far in this league campaign. The coaches are struggling to find the best combination of players, with many of equal ability in many key positions. This is making it difficult to get a pattern of play and confidence associated with a winning mentality.

The Athletic have now finished the midpoint of the season on 22 points from four wins and seven defeats. The only mitigating factor is that seven of the 11 games have been played away from home.

This Saturday will be the eighth away game as they look for a league double at fellow strugglers Bonywaen who are also facing a contrasting season to the last campaign.

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Athletic Seconds shine at Beddau

AGAIN showing a strong starting line-up and quality bench, the Athletic Seconds travelled to table-topping Beddau expecting a fierce encounter with the home side.

The start was delayed as a colour clash necessitated Beddau to change their jerseys but as soon as play commenced the Athletic showed their intention by sending wave after wave of attackers at Beddau as they spread the ball all over the field.

When the home team did regain possession it was under great pressure and outside-half Mike Hathaway charged down

his opposite number's clearance to re-gather and race under the posts for Tom Parry to convert.

Soon after, from a clean lineout tap, the ball was transferred from Tom Davies to Hathaway and Leroy Pemberton. His loose pass was well retrieved by Nick Hinton before timing his pass to Craig Chalmers.

The nippy wing out-paced the covering defence for a try out wide.

At last Beddau managed to exert some pressure but as the Athletic were shoved back close to their own line Tom Davies slipped the ball to Parry who found Ben

Beddau Seconds 17 Bridgend Athletic Seconds 51

Howe. The flanker raced up to his own 10 metre line before passing on to the supporting Jonny Mustoe.

He swayed to the outside before stepping inside and outstripping the cover to dive over under the posts; Parry converted.

Beddau reverted to type, as penalties in midfield were kicked to the corner and a well-drilled driving maul from a lineout got the score-board rolling for his second try.

Things didn't turn out quite so well for the Athletic full-back a little later when he was caught in possession and gave away a penalty.

Beddau took full advantage and a quickly taken penalty allowed them to reduce the arrears, but the Athletic were unstoppable at this point.

Parry carried the ball strongly and when the ball was recycled MacLeod ran to the blind-side before passing to the enthusiastic replacement wing Andrew Tyler, who took his chance and raced over from 30 metres out.

At last Beddau attempted to move the ball, and with some success as they laid siege to the Athletic line, searching for their own bonus point try but to no avail.

With only seconds to go, MacLeod's charge down gathered the ball into his midriff and he galloped over for the final score of the game. MD

The junior section

Porthcawl under-13s show power

Porthcawl under-13s	43
Taibach under-13s	5

HAVING recovered from a poor start to their campaign, Porthcawl under-13s travelled West to face Taibach full of confidence, and with four consecutive victories under their belt.

With a full squad at his disposal, coach Andrew Richards fielded possibly his most powerful team of the season.

From the kick off it was clear that Taibach had not read the script, as poor ball retention by the Porthcawl backs from the first handling move of the game allowed the Taibach winger to race over from the halfway line to score the game's first try.

Stung by this early reversal, the young Seaweeds fought their way back, patiently settling into the game and not panicking after falling behind to such an early score.

Their forwards soon began to dominate, with impressive breaks by Leon Evans and Ben Jones, allowing half backs Tom Cogbill and Ethan Walsh to control play.

Having impressed all season, fullback Ollie Woodall rounded off a

Ath under-12s win

ON a sunny autumn day, the Ath under-12s welcomed Kenfig Hill to Newbridge Fields for their first home game for six weeks.

The Ath had the wind in the first half and quick ball from the forwards allowed the backs to run at Kenfig Hill.

Despite occasional lapses in concentration, this game was by far the best performance of the season for Porthcawl's under-13s, with forwards and backs linking as a team and not as individuals.

AC

who used his pace to sprint over from forty yards.

Minutes later, Chris Matthews finished off a lovely handling move to make it 24-0 to the Ath.

Kenfig Hill then scored back and had a good spell of ascendancy in which they scored two deserved tries to make the score 24-14 at the break.

A raft of changes were made at half time and the strength of the squad could be seen as the Ath continued to play well.

Iwan Osbourne and Adam Muradotzic made good contributions and with Tom Zielinski and Joe Graham continuing their rich vein of form the Ath carried on creating chances.

The next try came from the Ath's own line when a couple of astute passes under pressure gave Joe Patterson bit of room and he used his pace to run seventy yards to touch down.

The Mules still came back at the Ath and it took some determined tackling to thwart sever-

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PYLE AND KENFIG GOLF CLUB NEWS



Pyle and Kenfig Juniors have had a hugely successful season.

Juniors' tremendous ten end season with a flourish

WHAT a season it was for Pyle and Kenfig Juniors.

They won the inaugural Rhys Davies Trophy in Royal Porthcawl some weeks ago and more recently came a super second to Celtic Manor, losing by a single shot in the Welsh Team Championships in Builth Wells; there will never be a closer result than that!

However, there was still the final of the Glamorgan Championship to be played against the Vale of Glamorgan at Royal Porthcawl, the venue of their earlier success.

P&K were in no mood to come second this time; they won two of the three matches, lost one and halved the reserves match, becoming the 2011 county champions – what a year!

The junior section

enjoyed the full and active support of the captain, committee, club members and very special efforts of junior leader, Ian Booth.

Congratulations must go to the team.

On so many occasions throughout the season

they have salvaged victory from the jaws of defeat.

Their determination, desire and ability to win have been outstanding, but above all, they have given 100 per cent for each other – a real team success.

The tremendous ten who made up the various teams are: Jamie Jones, Leon McNally, Tom Beale, Bradley Young, Tom Furneaux, Rhodri Booth, Jake Prosser, Ben Vance-Daniel, Cameron Morris, George Beale, JM

Phoenix put in great advert for women's rugby

THIS championship Division 1 match was a great advertisement for women's rugby with end to end play, and both sides totally committed throughout.

Gorseinon were first on the attack and only a tremendous try-saving tackle from Phoenix flanker Amy Stevens on her own line prevented a score.

However, it was Phoenix who opened the scoring, hooker Natalie O'Shea intercepting some 60 metres out and showing good pace to score.

Jade Mullen converted, but Gorseinon hit back immediately with a try.

Phoenix then moved the ball wide and full back Sarah Hughes outpaced the cover defence to lead 14-5.

The home scrum half then split the Phoenix defence for a converted try. Lauren Robson added a penalty for Phoenix to lead 17-12, and they further extended their lead prior to the interval.

The home side then came back to 19-22 before O'Shea stormed over from 40 metres, only for the score to be disallowed for a dubious foot in touch call from the linesman!

Phoenix then extended their lead to 29-19, but with Gorseinon returning to the attack the referee then awarded the home side a penalty try to the bewilderment of the Phoenix players and supporters.

Worse was to follow for Phoenix; they received two yellow

Gorseinon Pencoed Phoenix

31
29



Phoenix skipper Marina Newth bursts away.

Photos by JULIE HANCOCK

head.

With Phoenix down to 14 players for a yellow card and having to defend, skipper Marina Newth pulled off a crunching tackle before back row colleague Stevens made a double tackle within seconds.

The home side then came back to 19-22 before O'Shea stormed over from 40 metres, only for the score to be disallowed for a dubious foot in touch call from the linesman!

Phoenix then extended their lead to 29-19, but with Gorseinon returning to the attack the referee then awarded the home side a penalty try to the bewilderment of the Phoenix players and supporters.

Worse was to follow for Phoenix; they received two yellow

cards for technical offences and had to play virtually all that remained of the match with 13 players.

Phoenix played admirably until the fourth minute of injury time when Gorseinon got what proved to be the winning score.

Phoenix were not finished, however. They responded superbly to the prompting of Newth for centre Robson to crash over, only to be denied by the referee's decision to disallow the score!

Seconds later, at the sound of the final whistle, the Phoenix players stood in utter disbelief at having this game taken away from them having given everything they had against the odds!

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Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREA) ACT 1990 ECCLESIASTICAL EXEMPTION (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ORDER 1994

TAKEN NOTICE that pursuant to the procedures of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Baptist Union of Wales for the purposes of the above named Order United Free Church Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan has applied to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee for a Certificate of Authorisation to carry out the following works to their premises:

Demolish existing rear extension and construct a new extension incorporating a new entrance foyer, enlarged toilet accommodation, kitchen and meeting room. Internal alterations to existing side room including new rooflight, form new opening from Foyer in rear wall of chapel to allow independent access to the church.

The Church building is listed Grade II and is in a conservation area. Further details of the proposal may be obtained from Mr Don Mitchell, Don Mitchell Associates Limited, 39 High Street, Cowbridge CF71 7AE. Tel. No. 01446 771218. Email donaldmitchell@btconnect.com with whom arrangements may be made to inspect the building and the plans and other documents.

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Resident at The Manor House, St Hilary, where she was superbly cared for, Diana, the mother of Rosemary Samuel, died peacefully on Saturday 12th November, aged 92 years. Beloved wife of the late John Davey, Uckfield, East Sussex, and deeply loved by her six children, their spouses and families. Her requiem Mass will be at St Cadoc's Church, Cowbridge at 1pm on Saturday 19th November followed by burial in Welsh St Donats.

BEAUMONT Kenneth Charles

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Your dearly loved wife Margaret.

Loving father to Mark, Anita and Martin, father-in-law to Caroline and Mandy, a much loved Grampy to Alexander, Amelia, Liam and Daniel and all his grandchildren. Funeral service to be held on Monday 21st November, 2011 at 10.45am at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. No black ties. No flowers please. Donations to Cancer Research UK.

TAYLOR William (Bill)

Jill, Paul and Elaine and their families would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their cards, kind messages of sympathy and attendance at the funeral. Sincere thanks to everyone at Marie Curie Hospice Holme Towers, Penarth for the wonderful care given to their father, also thanks to Thomas Bros Funeral Directors.

LAWS Cyril James George

(Distinguished Flying Medal)

Peacefully on Friday, November 11, at the Heath Hospital, Cardiff; Cyril, aged 89, of Syes Close, Cowbridge (former employee of the Royal Mint and formerly of Fulham).

Beloved husband of Isabel, much-loved father and father-in-law of Sheila, Paul, Peter and Connie, loving grandad and grandad-in-law of Gareth, Danielle, Stuart, Gareth and Naomi and a special great-grandad of Zac. Sadly missed by everyone.

Funeral Tuesday November 22. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, to Air Ambulance c/o Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow St., Bridgend, CF31 1HE. Tel: 01656 650831.

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Pupils star in cross-country event

CROSS COUNTRY

THE south Wales girls' cross-country championships were recently held at Treloar Park.

In the senior race, Fiona Bray had a good run despite a stomach upset and finished in 6th place, followed by Jessica Jaques, who is improving with every race, finishing 7th and Nikita John finished in 9th place.

Bethan White filled in with only hours of notice to complete the team and ran well to finish 26th. An excellent performance – the team finished first!

In the years 9 and 10 race, Ela Emry had a good run to finish 12th, followed by Rebecca Thomas (21st), Nadine James (23rd) and Alice Tudor in 40th. The A team came 3rd.

Next in for Cowbridge was Brooke Langdon Cryer in 60th, Sally Gambling (67th), Millie Green (68th) and Tilly Hall (69th) completing the B team, who came first. Eleanor Hicks, Ffion Hopkins and Megan Langden Cryer also ran coming 76th, 77th and 83rd respectively. There were 150 runners so all Cowbridge runners excelled themselves.

In year 7 and 8 race, Seren Allin led from start to finish in fine fashion! Second in for Cowbridge was year-7 pupil Sanant Emry in 23rd, Cerys Bradshaw (33rd) and Selina Radcliffe (36th), making up the A team who came first.

In the B team, who came first, Jemma Viney came 52nd, Lowri Morgan (56th), Alicia Thomas (65th) and Ffion Vickers (67th).

In the C team, who came first, Sophie Oddy came 73rd, Megan Roberts (77th), Sophie Harpin (99th), Niamh Jenkins (100th).

Eleanor Farr, Rhiannon Medicott and Esme Freeman also ran, coming 155, 156th and 157th respectively. There were 202 finishers!

The girls will now go on to compete in the Welsh National Cross Country in Brecon on Saturday, November 19.

HOCKEY
HOWELLS were strong opposition right from the first whistle of the first round of the year-11 tournament.

Although we had a few attacking plays, Howells dominated the game and we spent most of the time defending in our own 25.

Sophie Thomas saved several shots at goal before Howells were successful and the score was 1-0 at half-time.

The second half saw us play a better attacking

game and we had a few unsuccessful attempts at goal.

Eventually, Howells scored again and we lost 2-0 at full time. Special mention to player of the match, Izzy Eddy Williams who was outstanding in defence.

RUGBY

OLIVER HITCHINGS and Gus Rees McPherson were selected for a match for the Welsh academicals v Christ College, Brecon on October 12.

The Welsh Academicals won 55-5 and reports suggest that both of the Cowbridge players put in outstanding performances, well done to both players!

The school senior rugby side put in an outstanding performance to beat Glantaf 16-12 in a hard fought match in dreadful conditions last week.

Captain Gus Rees McPherson was delighted with the way in which the school side pulled back from being 10 points behind to claim a vital win that also pushes Cowbridge top of the table of the national school premier league.

With the score at 12-3 at half-time to the visitors, Cowbridge rallied hard and outside-half Rhys Griffin controlled the game sensibly with some fine field kicks.

With Cowbridge spending much of the second half on top, there were a number of quick penalties awarded to the home side and new kicker Adam Roscrow had the coolness and skill to edge Cowbridge back into the game.

As the Cowbridge forwards picked up the tempo, Griffin pushed Glantaf back onto the defence again. When Tom Cunningham was able to pressurise the Glantaf lineout, substitute Connor Wyatt was able to pounce on the attempted chargedown to finally put Cowbridge into the lead.

As the game entered a thrilling conclusion, Glantaf pushed hard for a score but the Cowbridge defence stood firm to claim a great victory.

Back row forward Oliver Hitchings was outstanding throughout the contest for the home side, highlighting the many hours that he is dedicating to improving his fitness in the school gym. As well as being a huge asset for the school team, Oliver has also been in fine form for the Blues under-18s where, along with captain Gus Rees McPherson, reports suggest that both players have potential to develop into elite athletes in their chosen sport, well done boys!

The year-10 rugby side gained their third win in as many matches



Scrum down against Glantaf.



Year 8 team.



Year 8 and 9 team.



ABOVE: Posing with Lloyd Williams' Blues shirt

last week with a comfortable 45-0 victory away to Bro Morgannwg.

Playing without many District players, the school side gave opportunities to less experienced pupils who stepped up to the mark in fine fashion.

With the game taking place on a seriously boggy pitch, outside-half Alex Guard controlled the second half well with a tremendous display of kicking.

Alex was once again helped by a fantastic performance from scrum-half Harry Goodfellow, who delivered perfect service time after time for the Cowbridge backline.

There were also some outstanding performances in the backline from Daniel Evans and captain Nicky Griffiths. Both of these boys are starting to form one of the best centre pairings that the school has seen and they are both devoted trainers.

Up front, Daniel Holder gave another inspired performance and made some great yards with a number of powerful and aggressive runs. Marc Herbert has also been much improved this season, and was often found at the bottom of a ruck or maul winning the ball for his side. Thomas Higgins also performed well and gave 100 per cent as usual.

The team have won the previous two games playing against year-11 teams from Barry and Llantwit respectively. Both games produced scorelines of 50-0 to Cowbridge and with players of this quality coming through the ranks, the school will be strong at senior level in the coming years.

The picture shows members of the year-10 team (from left to right: Daniel Holder, Harry Goodfellow, Marc Herbert, Nicholas Griffiths and Matthew Lock) pictured alongside past pupil Lloyd Williams' rugby shirt, who has become a tremendous role model for all of our pupils.

On November 8, Cowbridge year-7 rugby team met a strong Stanwell side, for Cowbridge's fourth game of the season.

Both teams were very well organised, with some brilliant hands along the line, hard runs and big collisions.

The first 10 minutes were even and neither side could break down the other's defence. The first try of the match was scored by Rhys Bradshaw, who made a weaving run through the defence, outraced the winger on the outside, and managed to place the ball down right in the corner.

The lead was extended further by Bevan Howell, who cut the defence in half with a dummy to his right, and then a sidestep through the gap which this had created.

Stanwell were definitely not going to take a loss lying down, and came back with a try of their own. The try was scored by a superbly executed chip and chase for one of the tries of the match.

Cowbridge quickly responded just before half-time, with another try from Bevan. This try was a consequence of defensive pressure from Cowbridge, whose fast line speed forced the Stanwell backs into making a mistake, and then this was capitalised upon.

The second half started, and Cowbridge left off where they finished the first. With Cowbridge throwing the ball along the line with some silky skills, Morgan Gore finished off a stunning try by rounding the defenders.

Cowbridge did not let off the gas, and Max Cunningham powered through the defence, driving his legs until he was over the line.

Stanwell came back with their own try after this, and their winger scored the try of the match. He picked the ball up in his 22, ran down the wing, cut back inside near the half-way line and sprinted for the line.

Cowbridge were not finished just yet, and Rhys Bradshaw scored his second try with another trademark jinking run through the heart of the defence. Morgan Gore and Bevan Howell both slotted two conversions each, and the scores finished 8-2 to Llantwit.

The Cowbridge team now need to focus on creating space off the ball and controlling footwork ahead of their next

you all work tirelessly on the pitch and are a joy to coach/teach!

NETBALL

THE year 7 and 8 netball teams played Llantwit away on Wednesday November 9.

The year-8s played first and got off to a fantastic start, turning over Llantwit's first centre pass to secure the first goal. From then on, the Cowbridge girls worked solidly in defence to prevent the Llantwit attack from creating any real goal scoring opportunities, and Cowbridge were leading 9-0 at half-time!

In the second half, the Cowbridge team had a complete change in positions to facilitate versatility and encourage a closer fought game.

Despite being out of position, with defenders, playing in attack, and attackers playing in defence, they pulled together as a team, stuck to the basics and were still able to improve on the scoreline.

The final score was an excellent 16-0 win to Cowbridge.

Well done to Lucy Housley (GS), Olivia Jones (GA), Jemma Viney (WA), Maya Bell (C), Sashini Jaysinghe and Cerys Bradshaw (WD), Ffion Vikers (GD) and Emma (GK).

The year-7 team of Sophie Oddy, Robin Edwards, Selina Radcliffe, Nia Davies, Ellen Masters, Hannah Sloan and Eleanor Lewis (GD) and Emma (GK).

The game quickly

turned into a fast-paced and frantic battle as Bryn Hafren fought back. Going into the second half, the Cowbridge girls were ahead by just one goal and showed great composure to remain calm and collected to hold on to their lead.

In the closing stages of the match, Bryn Hafren equalised adding pressure to the Cowbridge shooters, Jo Wilkins and Lydia Hitchings.

However, excellent attacking play and control resulted in the opportunity to win the game and the Cowbridge girls capitalised on their opportunity to secure a 8-7 win.

A mention for excellent play should go to Hannah Woodward at WA and Annabel Curle at centre, and the girl of the game award went to Olivia Brown at GD.

The senior team got off to a slower start

game against Stanwell. Player of the match year-8 was Jemma Viney and year-7 Nia Davies.

Strong start

The year 10 and senior netball teams played Bryn Hafren home on Tuesday, November 8.

The year-10s played first and got off to a strong start, securing the first three goals of the match.

The game quickly turned into a fast-paced and frantic battle as Bryn Hafren fought back. Going into the second half, the Cowbridge girls were ahead by just one goal and showed great composure to remain calm and collected to hold on to their lead.

In the closing stages of the match, Bryn Hafren equalised adding pressure to the Cowbridge shooters, Jo Wilkins and Lydia Hitchings.

Despite the final score being 10-8 to Bryn Hafren, the Cowbridge girls actually won the second half 5-3, which is a huge credit to their characters and determination to succeed.

An excellent team performance, well done. A special thank you to Annabel Curle, Jo Wilkins and Lydia Hitchings for playing up for the senior team as well.

The year-8 netball teams played Stanwell at home on Thursday, November 3.

against an experienced Bryn Hafren side who forged ahead 5-1 in the early stages.

The Cowbridge girls soon settled, got their composure and began to fight back. Excellent defensive play from Molly Lamb at GD and Bethan Moorcraft at GK, prevented many goal scoring opportunities and created turnovers to enable the Cowbridge attack to capitalise. The score was 6-4 to Cowbridge at half-time.

The heavens opened in the second half and the girls altered their game to adapt to the varying conditions and were able to forge ahead. The As won 6-4.

The B team squad, consisting of Issy Fisher, Annie Lloyd, Lauren David, Cerys Bradshaw, Megan Duncombe, Molly Price, Charlotte Adams, Sian Smith, Hannah Crosby and Abbie Price were also hit with horrendous rain just as the game got under way, but it did not dampen their spirits.

Excellent defence from Charlotte Adams, Hannah Crosby and Megan Duncombe prevented Stanwell from securing many goal scoring opportunities and kept the Cowbridge girls in the game. The poor weather prevented a high scoring game and Stanwell secured a 4-1 win.

The year-8 netball teams played Stanwell at home on Thursday, November 3.

ANOTHER MEMORABLE EVENING AS SUPPER CLUB SAYS THANK YOU TO DAVID EAST

LLANTWIT MAJOR Supper Club recently gathered for a special evening.

Although every Supper Club evening has been special, on this occasion there was no official guest speaker or question and answer format, as the members of the Supper Club wanted to thank David East for his past efforts in establishing an event that has become the envy of clubs throughout Wales, with a guest list that encompasses a virtual 'who's who' of Welsh sporting legends and celebrities.

When David East and Dewi Evans met in the lounge at Llantwit Major RFC back in March 2004 they decided to provide an opportunity for grassroots supporters to meet in an informal atmosphere and mix with their heroes, legends, top sportsmen and administrators in an informal gathering.

Although not intended to raise money, such has been the success of the Supper Club that many good causes, particularly local, have benefited from donations.

A fun evening, yet often there have been some profound statements and snippets as guests share the highs and lows of some incredible lifetimes and careers; from the hilarity of Phil Steele to the more sober Steve

Hansen, the then-Welsh coach being the first guest to set the ball rolling and tipping a young Gethin Jenkins as a player to watch.

The evening with Bleddyn Williams, Dr Jack Mathews and Gren was my particular favourite, so many great memories that would not have been possible without David and Dewi's efforts.

Since David has left the area to move to Nottingham for family reasons, Dewi has taken over David's role as MC for the evening.

Dewi has taken to the role like a duck to water, as well as continuing to ensure quality guests are lined up and the whole evening runs smoothly.

Dewi explained the reasons for the longer than usual period between gatherings and re-iterated the concept of the Supper Club, promising that while it was great to be here to celebrate the 29th Supper Club, the unofficial committee were determined there will be more to come which brought a rousing round of applause from all those present.

Dewi thanked Graham Lane, Malcolm Cole, Keith Payne and Graham Morgan for their important roles and support, but also stressed that without the overwhelming support of the regular attendees such evenings may not have been possible.

After another excellent meal served and provided by the Fourth Horseshoe caterers, Dewi began proceedings by welcoming principal guests Dennis Gethin, president of the WRU, Roger Lewis, WRU group chief executive, Squadron Leader Simon Lane, St Athan, Howard Jones, Glamorgan County RFC, Roger Davies, former Glamorgan cricketer, and Brian Davies formerly Neath, Llanelli and Wales rugby star, who is now a reknowned artist.

Dewi pointed to the tables and mentioned other celebrities present including Onllwyn Brace (rugby/broadcasting), Terry Casey (soccer/FIFA), Simon Hill (rugby) and Alan Baird (WRU fitness guru) who, like Dennis and Roger, had only just returned from Wales' brilliant showing in New Zealand.

And there were more – top referees Derek Bevan and Nigel Whitehouse, and a host of others, including a good turn out from the South Wales Police; apologies for omissions, but such is the respect for David East it would be impossible to mention everyone.

Talking of apologies, Dewi had a long list. Tony Lewis (Glamorgan cricket) and Nicky Piper (boxing) were particularly disappointed not to be able to attend.

The first presentation of the evening was to be to yet another unsung

hero in the community. Dewi went on to colourfully paint a picture of some of the highlights of this gentleman's past.

A regular to the Supper Club, educated at Cowbridge Grammar and St Lukes College, Exeter, before returning to Llantwit.

Teaching in Barry, a former Llantwit RFC player, committee man and trustee since 1962, he worked alongside the late great George Bird.

Dewi pointed out this person's great contribution as coach of the famous Silver Ball winning sides of 1963/64 and 1964/65.

Dewi recalled the 1968 annual pilgrimage to Twickenham when this person caused quite a 'sheik' up among the WRU hierarchy, completely hoodwinking Ivor Jones, the then-president.

Dressed as an Arab Prince with the late Jeff Kellerher similarly attired at his aide and arriving at the hotel in a posh limo, John Llewellyn Thomas was invited to attend the game as a guest of the union and even had a police escort to the ground!

In recognition of his hard work for Llantwit Major RFC over the years, Dewi asked Howard Jones to present a Supper Club drag-on to JL.

Dewi then handed the mike over to David East who said how delighted he was to

travel down from Nottingham for the evening and especially pleased to be called upon to make the second presentation to a close friend, Howard Jones, known by many as 'Mr Silver Ball' through his efforts in organising one of Wales' most prestigious rugby competitions.

Howard has spent a lifetime working tirelessly to make Glamorgan county rugby the success story it is, especially when you see how the professional game has seen many counties cease to exist.

As fixture secretary and secretary Howard has run the county side in meticulous fashion, allowing them to field sides to help clubs throughout the district, and even further afield to celebrate centenaries and other milestones in style, and of course there have been numerous charity games.

A Glamorgan county cap is one of the most prized possessions in Welsh rugby, and David East said he was honoured to be president of the county before handing over to Dennis Gethin recently, and thanked Howard for his tremendous efforts over the years.

Howard responded in his own modest, inimitable style, bringing howls of laughter from the room, yet he was obviously taken aback by the presentation from David East of a silver supper club dragon to mark his long and successful service to Glamorgan county and Welsh rugby.

Next Dewi called upon WRU president Dennis Gethin to say a few words. Dennis pointed out that his first dealings with David were during the troubled times of the miners' strike but they later became good friends.

Dennis said he felt privileged to speak at a function thanking David East who, for decades, was one of the most prominent men in Welsh sport – boxing, rugby, cricket, and in particular his involvement with a host of sports when in charge of South Wales Police, who were a major force in Welsh rugby providing some fine internationals.

Dennis then called upon Dewi to present a unique gift to David, a magnificent portrait commissioned from Brian Davies one of Wales' most talked about portrait artist, who uses his talent to help support cystic fibrosis.

Brian's book superbly illustrated would make a fantastic Christmas gift for sports followers.

Brian also spoke

briefly to express his honour and privilege to produce a portrait of a very big man in Welsh sport, a figurehead to be looked up to.

David East accepted the incredible portrait with a great deal of emotion and thanked Brian for being so kind in his interpretation which was done from photographs.

Turning to Dewi, David said what a wonderful job Dewi had done in making the Supper Club so popular.

David said when he moved away for personal reasons he hoped the Supper Club would not die and in fact it is still blossoming thanks to Dewi's efforts.

David said like most great things it happens because people want it and modestly played down his role in the Supper Club.

He went on to say he was a lucky man, having enjoyed a great police career and being involved for many years with a variety of sports.

David pointed to the two referees present, Derek Bevan, who he rated the best-ever, and Nigel Whitehouse, a poacher-turned-gamekeeper who played for the Police side when David was involved, as did Phil Noble a talented scrum half. David shared a few memories of some tours with the Police XV's which are covered by the 'what goes on tour, stays on tour' rule!

David openly confessed to being sports mad, and thanked those present for their support over the years and expressed his honour in being invited back for the evening.

Initially, he was almost lost for words, and his thank-you to those present came from the heart.

After a warm round of applause for David, Roger Lewis WRU group chief executive expressed his respect for a great former secretary of the WRU who had contributed so much to Welsh rugby, particularly through the South Wales Police set-up.

Roger spoke of his visits to the Supper Club and the warm welcome and friendship offered to him by everyone – Dewi and David in particular.

He described it as an evening of warm friendship, brotherhood, a family, an honouring of old times and constant view to the future, what the game is all about, and what sport is about.

Certainly David's forceful character has helped promote and improve the game with David having a big influence in the establishment of leagues during his time as WRU Secretary.

Roger Davies, the



PICTURED: The inspiration behind the supper club, David and Dewi.



WRU group chief executive, Roger Lewis, thanks David.



Roger Davies tells a few stories.



Brian Davies, David East and the portrait.

former Glamorgan cricketer, also stood to thank David for his involvement with Glamorgan cricket, especially as president.

Roger said, as everyone knows, he himself has become famous for two reasons; firstly for dropping Sobers when he hit six sixes in an over (although he did actually catch it before stumbling over the boundary), and secondly for being struck on the head and almost killed when fielding in close.

Roger was more than that, a great cricketer in his own right and a great judge of men, and he felt like many that David should have had a longer stint as Glamorgan president.

Warmed by the comments of guest celebrities and also several speakers from the floor, who laid testament to David's humbleness, honesty, enthusiasm, commitment, concern

and unflattering efforts, David once again took the mike, reminiscing on the first ever Supper Club with Steve Hansen, followed by Derek Bevan, who is as good a speaker as he was a referee.

He spoke of his love of all sports, recalling the football World Cup of 1966 when he chauffeured Dr Kaiser and managed to see all of England's games plus many of the sights of Britain.

His time involved with South Wales Police also brought fantastic memories.

To conclude the evening, Llantwit Major RFC chairman, Alan Davies, presented David with new club ties.

One thing for sure is that all who have been fortunate to have met David East concur that it is a pleasure to know him – a true giant in sport.

KARATE STUDENTS KEEP SPORT IN THE FAMILY



The Christoforato family: Mum Heidi (right) with Kloe and Bradley, with junior members of Vale Karate's advanced class.

VALE Karate's byword is 'karate for everyone,' and its membership includes a high percentage of families training together – a prime example being the Christoforato family.

Bradley (14), and 11-year-old Kloe have been training with Vale Karate since they were young children, Bradley beginning karate in 2002 as a five-year-old, with Kloe joining him in 2005 when she was four.

Two years later, both mum and dad, Heidi and Craig, started training.

Both Bradley and Kloe have had huge success, winning titles across Britain, including seven

individual Welsh Karate Governing Body titles between them, and both are current Welsh champions.

Heidi has started competing relatively recently, however, she has already tasted success with a silver medal at the British Championships in October.

The latest Welsh karate league event, which took place in Neath on Sunday, was the first time that Heidi, Brad and Kloe all won gold medals at the same event.

Kloe was winner of the under-12 advanced kata event, Bradley won the under-14 advanced kata category and mum Heidi was triumphant in the ladies' kata section.

The Welsh karate league holds

nine tournaments a year at venues around Wales with competitors ranked in their categories.

Vale Karate have taken the

league by storm in their first year of involvement, with Georgia Hellerman, Christopher Slack, Emma Squire, Bradley Christoforato and Leah Copeland all leading their kata categories and Harrison Williams and Will Hellerman at the top of their kumite rankings.

Kloe Chritsoforato and Ewan Albright lead both their kata and kumite events.

Vale Karate is now preparing for the last league event of the year which takes place in Wrexham at the end of the month.

RC

Brian also spoke

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DINAS POWYS END UP ON THE WRONG SIDE OF A FIVE-GOAL THRILLER

AFTER totally dominating the first half and going in at the break with a two-goal lead, it looked a formality for Dinas to go on and win the game.

However, somehow they managed to squander all three points in a lacklustre second half performance, and their hosts must be praised for their never-say-die atti-

tude. Dinas were straight on the attack from the first whistle with Liam Jeremy adjudged just offside when in a good position, and Ricki Morgan was just wide with a shot received from Jeremy.

The visitors forced a succession of corners without any end product but were caught on the break when Jordan Morris beat the offside trap bursting through the middle, but experienced

NEWCASTLE EMLYN DINAS POWYS

3

sive error let Jordan Morris in and he made no mistake for 2-1 from close range.

Just a minute later, the hosts were level after another defensive error let Emlyn substitute Robbie Jenkins in to lob Burnett and with a few minutes remaining, the hosts snatched the lead from a free kick and a well-placed header by Jake Harries.

Jeremy was then replaced by Joe Briscombe and Dinas had one further chance to salvage something when a scuffed Paul McCarthy shot was cleared off the line as time ran out.

Dinas are away again this Saturday when they travel to Caerau with a 2pm kick-off.

Squad: 1 Dave Burnett, 2 Steve Provis, 3 Chris Hynam(c), 4 Mike Lewis, 5 Dave Penikett, 6 Will Penikett(1), 7 Ricki Morgan, 8 Richard Yar, 9 Jo Hinds(1), 10 Adam Raymond, 11 Liam Jeremy, 12 Rhys Davies, 14 Joe Briscombe, 15 Paul McCarthy. PK

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Barrivale Bridge news round-up

RESULTS from Barrivale for October 25:

1st, Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews, 63.1 per cent; 2nd, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond, 60.12; 3rd, Denis Mottram and Betty Lewis, 54.17.

Alan and Lyn also won on handicap. November 1: 1st, Jane Brook and Mick Green, 69.79 per cent; 2nd, Mike Close and Denis Mottram, 67.19; 3rd, Tim Barsby and Noelle Bond 55.73.

Jane and Mick also won on handicap.

New members are welcome at Barrivale.

The Bees have plenty of sting!

ON a crisp autumn morning at Barry RFC, the Bees entertained Fairwater in two games.

Fairwater, to their credit, never gave up in either game and really put their bodies on the line, with no reply, showing the Bees, having a lot of fresh legs who ran and tackled for fun, were too much for the visitors.

H Kelly, C Anderson, R Lloyd and James love nothing more than a tackle and a hit, while C Saunders, S Fahy have hard work they put into their training. LS

Cowbridge returns to the racetrack

COWBRIDGE returns to the racetrack on Sunday, November 20 at Tewcester after a well deserved rest.

Since his last race at Stratford, he has undergone schooling in preparation for his hurdling debut.

Still a little green, he needs a bit more time and accordingly, runs probably his last bumper before launching his jumping career.

Cowbridge has rewarded his followers with too good long-priced places and looks a good each way bet on Sunday, fingers crossed! CW

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Skittles help to boost Rhian's NSPCC run

RIGHT:
The Wine Gums.

THE Park Hotel played host to a charity skittles tournament on November 6, organised by Barry runner Rhian Lees, who will be running the 2012 London Marathon in aid of the NSPCC.

Thirteen teams entered on the day for the chance to win £100 prize money, with £50 for the runners-up.

The final was thrashed out between



the Wine Gums (pictured) and the Merrymen.

After scoring the highest total of the day in the first round, the Merrymen collapsed

spectacularly in the final as the Wine Gums demonstrated their skittling prowess with a final score of 85-62.

Merrymen captain Andrew Cockram accepted the runners-up prize graciously, but immediately donated it straight back to the fundraising pot.

Wine Gums captain Cynthia Whyman followed suit, resulting in an amazing total for the day of £572.35.

All proceeds will go towards Rhian's fundraising target of £2,000.

If you would like to support Rhian in her 2012 London Marathon effort, you can donate via www.justgiving.com/RhianLees2012 or by text. Just text LEES80 and the amount you would like to donate to 70070.

Congratulations go to Barry Beavers Swimming members on winning three gold medals and one silver, at the National Swimming Gala, held in the Pontypool leisure Centre.

Out of the possible ten gold medals Barry Beavers members won three, plus a silver medal; Congratulations to team: Halliwick Astra 15 (Wales), overall winners of the 'Barndaro

Trophy' and National League (Arthur Gunton Cup) winners.

The 42nd National Championships were held last month at the Pontypool Active Living Centre.

The Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy is a charitable organisation commonly known as Halliwick AST, an organisation that teaches swimming to people with disabilities, using the Halliwick Concept.

It has 90 affiliated swimming clubs and groups, including Astra 15 (Wales).

Beavers bring home the swimming medals!

Top of table clash a thriller

LAST weekend's VoG AFL Premier Division fixture list pitted the league's top two sides against each other, as AFC Colcot came head-to-head with last year's champions SW Dockers.

Both sides came into the match undefeated, with the Dockers having won every single one of their five games, and Colcot having only dropped two points this season following a draw against Park Villa. It was a hotly anticipated tie which didn't disappoint.

Both sides started the match with intent; the Dockers looking to increase their lead at the top of the table to five points, and Colcot looking to overtake their rivals at the summit of the table.

As a consequence, both teams spent the opening 15 minutes testing each other's resolve in an attempt to draw first blood - with both defences holding strong.

Neither party would be happy to settle for a draw, and it was therefore only a matter of time before the deadlock was broken - and in the 19th minute, broken it was.

Some excellent inter-linking play down the right flank between Ryan Lawlor and Caine Wells saw the latter deftly thread the ball through

to Daniel Lawlor inside the penalty area, who was upended as he tried to turn in on goal.

The referee wasted no time in pointing to the spot, and the resulting penalty was tucked away with confidence by central defender Shane Campbell, putting Colcot into the lead.

Colcot's joy was short-lived, though, as within minutes the Dockers levelled the scoreline with a controversial equaliser - as their winger was put in on goal with a long-ball.

The goal appeared to be offside, but the protestations of a typically partisan Colcot crowd proved futile, as the referee allowed Dockers to play on for a tap-in.

With both sides now well and truly awake, Colcot immediately resumed their lead after the re-start following an electric burst of pace from team captain Teejay Caton.

His excellent play along the left wing fed central midfielder Anthony Jones inside the penalty area, who bundled the ball into the net to put his side back in the lead.

Inspired, Colcot then went even further ahead in the 33rd minute as Daniel Lawlor crossed for veteran Greg Williams to volley home

from close range for 3-1. Dockers were in no mood to roll over, though, and they were

soon back in contention as another long-ball in the 37th minute allowed their attackers, with significant suspicions of offside, to break through the Colcot defence to narrow the scoreline at 3-2.

Remarkably, there would be no further goals in the second half, as both sides dug deep to stamp their authority over the fixture.

Despite the Dockers' best efforts, though, it would prove to be Colcot's day as their defensive spirit, inspired by outstanding performances from Shane Campbell and Connor Caton, held firm to take them to the summit of the VoG AFL premier division.

One-on-one with the Dockers keeper and with plenty of time to consider

Man of the match: Greg Williams. DS

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Welcome to the future ... according to Volvo

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THE headline above is the first thought that springs to mind on stepping inside the XC60 T5 SE R. Design because it's fitted with a sophisticated and intelligent cruise control that literally thinks for the driver.

It ensures that this crossover travels at the right speed and keeps the correct distance behind the car in front. This sees it braking and speeding up of its own accord.

It's not infallible though, because as I found, really torrential rain resulted in an unnerving 'blocked radar' warning appearing on the dash, instantly cutting out cruise control.

This was the worst rain I have driven in and it's unfortunate that it highlighted this glitch. Once the rain eased the system worked again.

At times, the radars were also a little too sensitive for my liking. For instance, when in the outside lane of the



motorway the sensors became aware of vehicles in the middle lane, resulting in the XC60 slowing down when there was no need – making for a jerky ride and frustrating performance at times, but the idea is a good one that just needs a little improving, in my opinion.

Aside from this, the Volvo handled the very unsympathetic weather battering with ease, its height ensuring that it could tackle widespread flooding.

When the sun finally emerged, the massive panorama sunroof was greatly appreciated. This also provided a really light and airy feeling inside.

In the XC60, Volvo has attempted to combine off-road ruggedness

and practicality with sporty styling and safety. It has pretty much achieved this, too. The stylish vehicle is spacious, with a modern cabin, is family-friendly and less bulky looking than the larger XC90.

On the road there is an excellent ride, making it a good long distance companion. However, on shorter journeys it is noticeable that the automatic box, which feeds powers to all four wheels, is a little hesitant at times.

Model tested XC60 T5 SE Premium Powershift T5 (240bhp) R Design 5d Powershift (introduced 2010) six-speed auto. Price: £35,000

New price range: £28,300 - £41,260; Economy: 33mpg; Engine: 2-litre turbo petrol; 0-60mph: 7.8secs; Top speed: 130mph.



06 06 FORD Fiesta ST 1999cc 3-dr Hatchback. In blue, air con, 1/2 leather sports seats, radio/CD, low miles just 43k, FSH £3,995



06 MAZDA 6 2S2 Diesel. 65k, MoT May 12, 2 prev keepers, a/c, p/w, abs, s/r, cruise control, Bose Hi Fi, 6 speed manual £2,995



06 FORD Transit 2-Litre Diesel, MoT July 2012, full service history £5,295



03 DAEWOO Kalos 1.4. 5-dr, alloys, c/s, p/w, a/c, service history, MoT Oct 12, Tax April 12, mileage 69k £1,895

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- 04 04 VOLKSWAGEN Bora diesel 1896cc, 4-dr saloon. Metallic beige, 1 former keeper, 2 keys, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, 94k, cruise control £3,795
- 06 06 VAUXHALL Astra Sri 1796cc 5-dr hatchback. Metallic silver, a/c, radio/cd, fsh, remote central locking, 80k £3,695
- 07 07 FORD KA Zetec 1297cc 3-dr Hatchback. In black, 2 keys, radio/CD, power steering, e/windows, FSH, low miles 30k £3,495
- 04 04 FORD Focus 1796cc Zetec 5-dr hatchback. In blue, radio/cd, a/c, remote central locking, fsh, low miles £2,995
- 02 02 FORD Focus ST 170, 1988cc 3-dr hatchback. In black, 6 speed manual, traction control, a/c, s/h, radio/cd £1,995
- 02 02 SKODA Octavia RS 1781cc. Metallic silver, half black leather sports seats, reverse sensors, traction control, FSH, remote central locking, radio/cd, 2 keys, a/c £1,995
- 02 02 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXI 3-dr. In silver, pas, e/w, a/con, full service history, new MoT on purchase, 89k £1,895
- 03 03 RENAULT Megane Scenic 1390cc MPV. In blue, air con, E/W, E/M, radio/cassette, 1/2 leather seats, 79k £1,695
- 51 01 RENAULT Clio 1149cc Expression 16v 3-dr hatchback. Silver, 1 owner, sunroof, e/w, cam belt recently changed, 79k £1,695
- 51 01 TOYOTA Avensis 1.85-dr. In silver, sat nav, air con, E/W, FSH, 3 keys, 93k £1,595
- 00 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 GXL 3-dr. 2000 model, MoT October 2012, 76,000 miles, met red, fsh, c/l, e/w, air con, multi cd player £1,295

PART EXCHANGE TO CLEAR

- T 99 FORD Focus 1796cc Zetec 5-dr hatchback. Silver, radio/cassette, electric windows, MoT till June 2012, taxed £995
- T 99 VOLKSWAGEN Caddy Diesel. MoT until September 2012 £995

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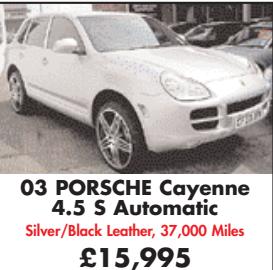
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06 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 2.0 3-dr
Dark metallic blue, 49,717 miles
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07 BMW Z4 2.5i SE
in silver with red leather,
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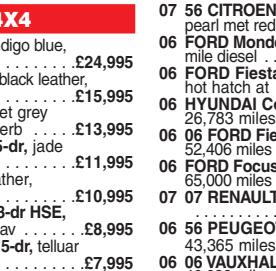
57 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-door
Met grey, 47,000 miles, 1 owner
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07 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 16v Sport. 3-dr, met blue, 38,284 miles	£4,995
07 07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v Energy. 5-dr, silver, 52,318 miles	£4,695
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Pearl metallic red, 47,343 miles
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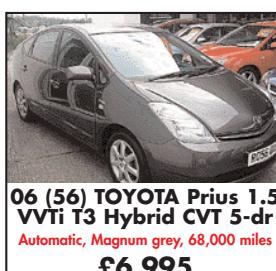
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10 10 RENAULT Grand Modus 1.2 TCE 100 Dynamique 5-dr hatchback. In black with charcoal interior, air con, alloy wheels, ISOFIX, radio/CD, under manufacturers warranty, only 28,000 miles

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08 08 FORD Focus 2.0 Titanium in grey with dark interior, quickclear front screen, radio/cd, automatic headlights, alloy wheels, privacy glass, immobiliser, only 7,750 miles

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05 55 BMW X5 3.0i Sdrive in grey with black leather interior, sat nav, phone preparation, heated seats, Alcantara, only 63,000 miles

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05 05 BMW 3200 Sport 2-dr Convertible. In black with beige leather, climate control, immobiliser, heated seats, M-Sport alloys, only 90,950 miles

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05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fog, 52,000 miles

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05 05 MINI Cooper S 1.6 (Chilli) 2-dr convertible in metallic black with black leather interior, 17 inch 5 star bullet design alloy wheels, quick clear front screen, cruise con-

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09 09 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-dr hatchback. In panhandle black with black interior, air con, alloy wheels, radio/CD, privacy glass, electric windows, only 24,800 miles

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05 57 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTI 16v (150ps) SRi 5-dr hatchback. In panacotta beige with duke charcoal interior, air con, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, cd, alarm, only 46,950 miles

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03 53 MINI Cooper S in silver with half black leather interior, panoramic roof, radio/cd, electric windows, grey leather, immobiliser, only 59,020 miles

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FAMILY

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05 56 HONDA Civic 1.4 VTEC 5-dr Hatchback. In bluish silver with black suede interior, sat nav, cruise control, traction control, alloy wheels, radio/CD, only 33,280 miles

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04 04 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, radio/CD, quick clear front screen, radio/CD, only 31,995 miles

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03 03 TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVTi 16v 5-dr Hatchback. In crystal white, Acapulco interior, air con, CD, split folding seats, M-Sport alloys, only 59,000 miles

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03 03 HONDA Civic 1.8 VTec SE 3-dr Hatchback. In aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, radio/CD, only 59,000 miles

£4,995

03 03 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In moon dust silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles

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FAMILY

09 09 FORD Galaxy 1.8 TDCi Edge. In silver with black interior, privacy glass, air con, immobiliser, 7 seats, service history, only 42,960 miles

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03 03 TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVTi 16v 5-dr Hatchback. In crystal white, Acapulco interior, air con, CD, split folding seats, M-Sport alloys, only 59,000 miles

£4,995

03 03 HONDA Civic 1.8 VTec SE 3-dr Hatchback. In aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, radio/CD, only 59,000 miles

£4,995

03 03 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In moon dust silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles

£3,495

FAMILY

09 09 FORD Galaxy 1.8 TDCi Edge. In silver with black interior, privacy glass, air con, immobiliser, 7 seats, service history, only 42,960 miles

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05 56 HONDA Civic 1.4 VTEC 5-dr Hatchback. In bluish silver with black suede interior, sat nav, cruise control, traction control, alloy wheels, radio/CD, only 33,280 miles

£8,995

09 09 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-dr hatchback. In panhandle black with black interior, air con, alloy wheels, radio/CD, privacy glass, electric windows, only 24,800 miles

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05 57 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTI 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17 alloy wheels, front fog, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles

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03 03 TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVTi 16v 5-dr Hatchback. In crystal white, Acapulco interior, air con, CD, split folding seats, M-Sport alloys, only 59,000 miles

£4,995

03 03 HONDA Civic 1.8 VTec SE 3-dr Hatchback. In aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, radio/CD, only 59,000 miles

£4,995

03 03 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In moon dust silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles

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GEM sport

Game of two halves for Kenfig RFC

IN soccer parlance, this was the proverbial game of two halves with Glynneath winning the first half and the Mules the second.

Glynneath elected to play down the slope in the first half and went on the attack but Kenfig Hill held them out and took the lead through a penalty by outside-half Rhodri Clark.

Glynneath came straight back with a penalty by their outside-half Jack O'Reilly, and then strung a slick passing move together which saw scrum-half James Pike score near the posts, O'Reilly converting.

The rest of the half was best forgotten by Kenfig Hill with a series of handling errors giving the home side a strong advantage, and although they pressed hard they could not penetrate the Mules' defence.

Kenfig Hill gave away a series of stupid penalties, mainly for talking back to the referee and O'Reilly never missed a kick, putting over four.

This gave a half time score of Kenfig Hill 3 Glynneath 22.

Coach Nigel Evans expressed his disappointment in his half time talk and the Mules were a different side in the second half, dominating procedures.

Hooker Karl Davies scored a fine individual try which was converted by Clark, who then added a penalty.

Kenfig Hill crossed the line moments later but the player unfortunately stepped into touch, inches from the line. From this point on it was continuous attacking against a tiring home outfit.

Kenfig Hill put together a superb passing move which saw winger Matthew Tossell score in the corner.

From the kick-off, Glynneath gained a kickable penalty but elected to go for touch to end the game.

Final score: Kenfig Hill 18 Glynneath 22.

For Kenfig Hill, hooker Karl Davies gave a man of the match display and wing forward Jason Davies played well, with the rest of the pack giving a gritty performance against a strong pack.

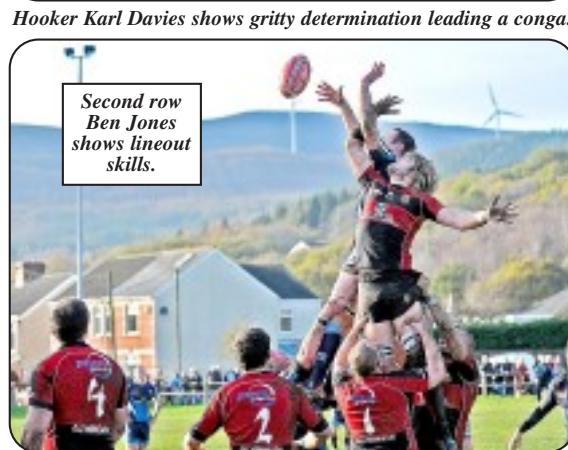
Brackla 1st XV 22 Kenfig Hill 2nd XV 34

THE Mules' second string battled to their

Pictures by PETER GILLING



Scrum-half Mark Jenkins makes a break.



Hooker Karl Davies shows gritty determination leading a conga.

Second row Ben Jones shows lineout skills.



first away league win against plucky opponents Brackla.

The game was played in almost perfect conditions and from the first whistle, both teams threw the ball around looking to attack from all corners of the pitch.

The Mules scored first when makeshift outside-half Lewis Morgan sliced through the Brackla defence to score a try close to the posts, which he converted himself.

Brackla then scored a try immediately from the kick-off following a fine blindside break.

The Mules continued to pile on the pressure and Lewis Morgan kicked a close range penalty to extend the Mules lead.

Brackla hit back with a converted try following a deft chip and catch which made the score Brackla 12 Kenfig Hill 10.

The Mules then stepped up a gear for the rest of the half and scored further tries from flankers Dai Dent and Matthew Howe, both

converted by Morgan and a fine individual effort from ever-improving winger Jonathan Steggles.

The second half was a scrappy affair with both team struggling to keep possession and with far too many indiscretions at the breakdown. The Mules scored one further try – albeit in rather bizarre circumstances – centre Alex Pearce cut through the Brackla defence and dived over the try line unopposed, walked back to hand the ball to outside-half Lewis Morgan for the conversion, at which point the referee informed Pearce that he hadn't grounded the ball.

Morgan then sprinted over the line to claim the try himself. A definite candidate for 'What happens next'!

Brackla kicked a penalty and scored a fine long range individual try from their substitute winger, leaving the final score Brackla 22 Kenfig Hill 34.

The Mules then stepped up a gear for the rest of the half and scored further tries from flankers Dai Dent and Matthew Howe, both

**RIGHT:
Pencoed centre Liam Halse races away to score.**

Photos by JULIE HANCOCK



SISTERS PROVE TOO STRONG FOR PENCOED RFC

PENCOED opened well, moving the ball wide at every opportunity, before captain Ken Morris straightened onto a pass from outside half Marc Davies to split the home defence and feed left wing Richie Samuel who sped over in the corner.

Davies converted from the touchline but after 18 minutes Seven Sisters drew level, their pack mauling over from close range.

Soon after centre Mike Smith kicked a 35 metre penalty for a 10-7 lead. Pencoed returned to the attack and full back Tom Cross, picking a good angle, almost scored, brought down metres out.

Seven Sisters outside half Kyle Davies then put in a fine clearance to half way. The Pencoed pack took the ball against the head at the next scrum before Cross kicked Pencoed back into the home 22, only to lose the resultant line out in a prime position.

The scoreline of 10-7 reflected a fairly even first half.

The second half opened with a number of errors from Pencoed allowing the Blaenau valley side a foothold in their favoured 22, before increasing their lead to 15-7 with a try halfway out.

Pencoed then suffered some bad luck which

**SEVEN SISTERS
PENCOED**

**34
7**



ABOVE: Second row Ashley Halse scoring for Pencoed 2nd XV against Llantwit Major.

BELOW:
Pencoed's Mike Rowe on the burst.



was to ultimately affect the final scoreline. Firstly scrum half Lyndon Griffiths, who had done well on his return to 1st XV duties, left the field with a shoulder injury, and within minutes emergency scrum half Jeff Hobbs limped off.

This no doubt disrupted the Pencoed side with wing Samuel switching to scrum half and back row forward Aaron Halse having to play at centre because of the further positional change.

The home side from then on were to take full advantage and raised their game scoring a further three tries to run out comfortable 34-7 winners.

If you would like to start playing rugby and are currently in year 7 of comprehensive education, why not come along to Pandy park in Ynysawdre at 6pm on a Tuesday evening, where you will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

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